

THE GATEWAY

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SU, admin applaud Bill 1

CATLIN CRAWSHAW
News Editor

Last Tuesday, the Government of Alberta delivered its annual Speech From The Throne, promising a significant injection of cash into postsecondary learning with the creation of Bill 1.

The bill will include the establishment of a \$3 billion Access to the Future Fund, an endowment for scholarships, grants and other university funding, as well as a \$1 billion expansion of the Alberta Heritage Scholarship Fund.

Additionally, the bill will boost academic research with a \$500 million increase in the Alberta Ingenuity Fund.

According to Minister of Advanced Education Dave Hancock, the exact details of the bill will be ironed out in six to eight months' time.

Students' Union President Jordan Blatz argued that the Access to the Future Fund, an endowment that will produce about \$135 million per year, will be of the greatest benefit for students.

"I think the strongest part of the bill is that it has an endowment that deals with the system as a whole," he said.

"[The SU has] been advocating for an endowment for scholarships and bursaries ... because an endowment takes short-term windfalls from oil revenue and turns it into something that can help with affordability for a

long time—long after oil revenues are a thing of the past."

He added that the bill has the potential of creating a stellar postsecondary education system in Alberta.

"I think that Bill 1 will be a significant benefit to the system and has the potential to make Alberta one of the best postsecondary systems not just in Canada, but in the world," said Blatz.

"I think that Bill 1 will be a significant benefit to the system and has the potential to make Alberta one of the best postsecondary systems not just in Canada, but in the world."

JORDAN BLATZ,
SU PRESIDENT

But while Blatz believes the bill is a positive force for postsecondary education, he has some reservations.

"There's holes in the system and still more that needs to be done," he argued.

"It isn't enough to help reverse what's been a two-decade-long trend of chronic underfunding from our provincial government to our [post-secondary] institutes."

It is critical for the health of the University of Alberta, for instance, that the upcoming government budget increases the U of A's operating budget and deals with the University's \$600 million in deferred maintenance costs, Blatz said.

U of A President Rod Fraser believes the bill is unprecedented in Alberta history.

"[Bill 1] could well have the most positive impact on the U of A of any decision made in the first 100 years, from the establishment of the University from the bill that passed in 1906," he said.

He added that he is optimistic that the budget will parallel the throne speech.

"I think it may well be a budget that is absolutely consistent with the visionary throne speech that we've had," he said.

Hancock couldn't provide any details yet, but said the budget will treat postsecondary education as a priority.

"I can't speak specifically to the budget other than to say I've had very good conversations with the whole postsecondary sector and I've assured them that it is a number-one priority for us, and I think they will be happy with what we're going to do in the budget," he said.

Ultimately, both Blatz and Fraser believe the creation of the bill is due to more than a decade of intensive lobbying.

PLEASE SEE BILL 1 • PAGE 2



GOAL! This robotic segway is headed for the American soccer tournament.

MATTFREHNER

U of A robot to play in RoboCup

Professor develops soccer-playing robot

HANNA NASH
News Writer

When people think of robots, they typically think of space or more practical medical applications. But a U of A professor is fighting this assumption by giving robots a chance to play.

University of Alberta computing science professor Dr Michael Bowling has used a device called the Segway Human Transporter to equip robots to play soccer.

The Segway HT was originally designed as a self-balancing, scooter-like device about the height of an average human that allows people to move more quickly in varying environments and terrain. But with funding provided by the Alberta Ingenuity Centre for Machine Learning, Bowling is adapting the device.

"Basically what Segway gives you is something that you can look into the robot and tell it to drive forwards, backwards, or turn," said Bowling.

"So, what we're trying to do is put on things that allow the robot to sense the world around it, like cameras. We

want to use that information to make the robot do something interesting. And one of those things is soccer."

Currently, the robot can only respond to a human-controlled joystick, but Bowling explained that sometime this week a camera is going to be mounted on the robot that will allow the robot to see and hopefully chase a ball around.

Eventually, Bowling hopes his robot will be able to recognize where it is on the field and be able to locate the goal, such enhancements allowing for further development of robot capabilities.

"One of the appeals to doing soccer is that it's going to rapidly get us up to the speed where we can have the robot doing a lot of different things," he said.

Bowling is currently preparing his robot for this year's RoboCup US Open Segway robot competition in Atlanta, Georgia, on 7 May. The joint collaboration of artificial-intelligence researchers is a venue for testing robots' soccer abilities.

PLEASE SEE ROBOCUP • PAGE 3

Postsecondary enrolment not suffering despite tuition increases: Statistics Canada

ALEXANDER WITT
News Writer

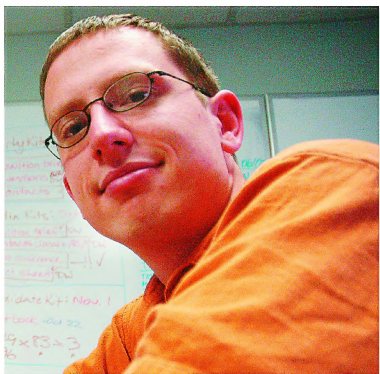
A study released in late February indicates that postsecondary enrolment has not declined despite substantial increases in the cost of tuition—but student leaders say this isn't good news.

According to the Statistics Canada study, the average cost of tuition rose 77 per cent in Canada between 1993 and 2001, while Alberta has seen the average cost of tuition rise 273 per cent since 1991.

The study examined the likelihood of children from different demographics attending postsecondary institutions.

"The goal of the study was to examine how the gap in university attendance between children coming from families with relatively low income and those coming from rich families has evolved over the last few years," said René Morissette, a senior economist with Statistics Canada.

PLEASE SEE STATSCAN • PAGE 2



FILE PHOTO: JAMES LEUNG

CONCERNED Duncan Wojtaszek thinks the tuition barrier is still problematic.

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Hot or not?

Canadian Idol viewers voted Kalan Porter the former, and he's never loved democracy more. Read about it in A&E.

A&E, PAGE 22



A banner weekend

The Pandas will play for CIS hockey gold in Montréal, while the Bears will be at home for the Canada West final.

SPORTS, PAGE 24

STREETERS

Compiled and photographed
by Chloé Fedio and
Caitlin Crawshaw

The city-wide smoking ban in Edmonton will go into effect in July 2005. However, Ralph Klein has recently announced that he will not support a province-wide smoking ban.

What do you think of the premier's announcement?



Tara Poholko
Engineering III

I think that's terrible. We need provincial support so that it will actually be pushed through. I don't think that smoking in bars and restaurants should be allowed—it's a bad habit that should not be supported at all.



Linda Thomsen
Engineering III

I think that it's good because people should be able to decide for themselves.



Hilary Kornder
Science I

I would support a province-wide smoking ban, so I don't agree with [Klein]. I think we should impose a ban.



Adam Fragomeni
Education I

I'm an asthmatic, so I disagree with the premier. I can't go to the bar without feeling like I'm smoking myself. I don't think it's fair.



VOTE! Chris Sesky, peruses an SU ballot before voting in SU8 on Wednesday.

U of A prof awarded grant for work in Uganda

TASNEEM KARBANI
News Writer

In light of increasing concerns about the global HIV/AIDS problem, a research grant has recently been awarded to a U of A professor to help treat AIDS patients in Uganda.

Dr. Walter Kipp, a University of Alberta professor of international health in the department of public health sciences, recently received a four-year research grant of \$1.25 million from the Canadian Institute of Health Research (CIHR) to study the treatment of AIDS in rural communities of western Uganda.

Kipp explained that Uganda is a leader among African countries in terms of the decline in HIV infection and the progression of local treatment. But Ugandan patients living in villages struggle to afford AIDS treatment, as they must travel to receive attention.

"There is only one place where drugs are distributed in the local area, otherwise all patients have to go to the main hospitals. That means rural patients who don't have money to [stay in] the hospital must make repeated trips and may have to stay overnight with expenses," said Kipp.

The study will compare community-based and hospital-based treatments. Using anti-retroviral drugs on 200 patients in both community- and hospital-based settings, Kipp hopes to prove that treatments at home can be as effective as those which are hospital-

based. If the study is successful, Kipp also hopes to extend the treatment in other areas of Uganda and Kenya.

The multi-disciplinary project also involves U of A researchers from sociology and economics. Dr. Martin Luckert, a professor of rural economy, is one of the economists involved in the research team. Luckert and his colleagues will study the impact of AIDS on household livelihood to better design how drugs are administered to patients.

Luckert said he's optimistic about the outcome of the project.

"I think we have a pretty good foundation, background and expertise to take to this and deliver the goods."

And to ensure reliability of the study, Kipp will travel to Uganda in June to begin the project, which will stretch over the next five years of his professorship, which will also be his last.

"I am going to retire in five years. What I am going to do in the next five years is focus on this project. It is really my absolute priority," stated Kipp.

"We have seen from other [areas] that if the patient takes the drug with 90 per cent or 95 per cent regularity, then the treatment outcome is very good," Kipp explained.

Kipp will travel to Uganda in June to begin the project, which will stretch over the next five years of his professorship, which will also be his last.

"I am going to retire in five years. What I am going to do in the next five years is focus on this project. It is really my absolute priority," stated Kipp.

Robots and humans to work together in RoboCup US Open

ROBOCUP • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

He explained that since soccer is such an appreciated sport worldwide, it's a common way that all researchers can compare techniques with each other and look for ways to progress in artificial intelligence. While few of the robot soccer leagues in the world currently allow humans and robots to play against each other, the Segway robot soccer league at the RoboCup competition allows for the mixed competition

, ensuring an equal playing field.

"With the Segway league, the emphasis is probably going to be on humans and robots working together. So, rather than taking a robot and letting a human take control of it, we're taking something that humans were specifically designed to maneuver well with and we're going to have a robot run on top of it," he explained.

"They'll have the same speed and maneuverability."

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Chronic whiplash may be symptom in Canadian minds, says U of A study

TIANNA MAPSTONE
News Writer

The chronic whiplash epidemic in Canada may be partly caused by patients' expectations of their prognosis' outcome, according to a new study by U of A researchers.

The study, published in the February issue of the *Journal of Spinal Disorders and Technology*, asked Germans and Canadians what they would expect following a whiplash injury. While both countries expected similar symptoms, 50 per cent of Canadians anticipated the pain lasting months or years, compared to less than ten percent of Germans. Actual diagnoses of whiplash occur frequently in both countries, and while half of all cases in Canada become chronic, recovery in Germany is typically measured in days or weeks.

The findings are consistent with other studies in Lithuania, Greece and Germany, where incidences of chronic whiplash are low.

"I wanted to understand what it was that Lithuania, Germany and Greece had in common that gives them a similar outcome, and what is it that's different from us," said Dr Robert Ferrari, a physician and the study's lead author.

"Whiplash injury is important because it's a multi-billion dollar problem. One hundred thousand diagnoses [per] year of whiplash occur in Canada, a million [per] year in the United States. [Whiplash is] a common condition, an expensive problem and it's clearly causing a lot of pain and suffering," he said.

To rule out cultural stoicism or

medical ignorance, German subjects were asked what they would expect to experience if diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis. The countries didn't differ in their expectations of pain and long-term disability, and their assumptions about the disease approximated the illness' medical reality. Germans were therefore neither stoic nor medically less informed than Canadians according to the study, Ferrari said. Neither is it a result of not reporting injury, he explained, since the diagnosis of whiplash is made 250,000 times a year in Germany.

"[Whiplash] is a common condition, an expensive problem, and it's clearly causing a lot of pain and suffering."

DR ROBERT FERRARI,
PHYSICIAN

Ferrari emphasized education about whiplash and a positive attitude could aid recovery. He advised refraining from certain litigation-encouraged behaviours following an accident; avoiding soft collars and not keeping a pain diary would focus less energy on retaining the pain, and more on healing. Most importantly, Ferrari claimed regular exercise and continuation of normal daily activity best predicted a good prognosis.

The research, which has already affected Canadian government legislation and treatment by physi-

cians, could alter litigation practices as well. Ferrari mentioned studies in Saskatchewan showing better prognoses for victims who do not sue for pain and suffering.

However, Cam Ashmore of the Edmonton law firm Russell and Company Accident Lawyers is skeptical about results of studies like this. He said ignoring aspects of culture and healthcare systems in other countries make these studies misleading.

"There are studies dealing with different countries [completing] them that show [whiplash] is fairly consistent ... in similar types of cultures," Ashmore said.

According to Jim Rivett of the Insurance Bureau of Canada, research into non-physical factors of chronic whiplash have already affected government legislations for insurance, reducing payouts in some cases, and putting checkpoints into treatment plans.

"The more we can learn about it the better off we'll be, so we welcome any kind of research on it," he said.

Ferrari emphasized that this study and previous studies are only the start of research into chronic whiplash injury. The next step, he said, will be to look at individuals immediately after a vehicle crash to see if their expectations affect their injury's outcome. Despite expectation effects, he emphasized that whiplash is not a problem to be dismissed.

"I tell physicians that it doesn't make sense to simply tell all [their] patients that whiplash is a minor injury, it's not a big problem, it's going to go away ... because that's really contrary to what at least half of Canadians know."

News student group builds Indian community centre

KAILA SIMONEAU
News Writer

A student relief organization formed after the tsunami in December has planned its first project: a community centre for a ravaged Indian community.

The International Student Relief Organization (ISRO), whose members include several University of Alberta international students with ties to tsunami-affected areas, has begun to organize the construction of a community centre for Thirumullaivaal, India.

The small fishing community in southern India was selected by the ISRO executive committee from a list composed by interested persons, organizations and students from tsunami-devastated regions. While the local Indian government is helping Thirumullaivaal purchase new fishing equipment and rebuild homes, ISRO members feel a community centre will provide the villagers with a common place for rehabilitation, recreation and education.

"Also, because there are so many widows there now after the tsunami, [the centre] can provide space for women if they want, and [somewhere] to get training, and learn skills," explained Vivek Dhawan, ISRO's general secretary.

ISRO members also believe that the building of the centre will provide members of the community with temporary employment.

For the project, the ISRO has enlisted help from the Lion's Club, the Rotary Club, and the Karakal Mobility Training and Rehabilitation Centre for the Blind, all of which recommended the project and will be overseeing its

progress. Also, U of A political-science student Sunell Parmar, who is already in India assisting with the rebuilding process, has volunteered to monitor the centre's construction.

"We wanted to include as many other organizations as possible at that global level, so that nobody can abuse the fund. With more people involved, there would be more 'check,' we believe," said Dhawan.

In fact, because of this ability to oversee the allocation of funds and to witness the progress of the project, members believe the ISRO is unique.

"The problem with the donations from the other [fundraisers] is that we do not know where the money is going; they are not getting feedback and they're not sure whether the money has properly reached where it was going. That is what we are aiming to do at the grassroots level," said ISRO President Yohanath Sekar.

The ISRO also aims at making a long-term contribution, added Dhawan.

"We always wanted to focus on long-term projects. We didn't want to focus on just giving blankets now; we wanted to come up with projects that will help people in their lives, not only financially, but also psychologically," said Dhawan.

"This community centre will help them through the trauma they have gone through. We believe that people are really going to benefit from it."

In an effort to raise money for the project, the ISRO is hosting an International Cultural Night on 14 March at the Horowitz Theatre in the hopes of raising \$10,000, which will cover half of the costs to build a new community centre in the region.

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U of A prof creates language for videogame

ANTONIO ANGHELONE
News Writer

A U of A linguist and computer game company BioWare have joined forces to create a realistic, mythical language for the soon-to-be-released computer game *Jade Empire*.

BioWare's new game, set to be released 18 April, takes place in mythical East Asia and is a story-based, role-playing game.

The language created for the game, Thofan, represents an imperial language and was designed to give a sense of realism to the game, said linguistics professor Dr Wolf Wikeley.

"You get the real bonus of a realistic flavour [with the addition of the language]," he said.

"[If] you can get a language that isn't English, [the game] will instantly seem more authentic."

The language, which took two and a half months to create, wasn't Wikeley's first experience with developing new languages.

"I've had a little practice creating fake languages in teaching linguistic concepts," said Wikeley, who often creates simulated linguistics problems for his students to solve in his classes.

Thofan is a combination of some European languages and East Asian languages, he added.

"I had aspects of European languages incorporated in there as well ... [while] some vocabulary is taken from Mandarin. Some vocabulary was borrowed wholesale from Japanese, and some grammar elements are taken from Chinese and Japanese," Wikeley said.

But he emphasized that while his language is multicultural, he focused on Asian languages to create a sense of authenticity.

"If you have characters in *Jade Empire* that sound like a Swedish chef, it's really going to sound stupid, so I had to give it a real-world rounding."

Wikeley said.

The advantage of a linguist creating a language, as opposed to a computer programmer, boils down to expertise, according to Wikeley. The linguist, and not the programmer, understands the structures of language.

"I got the chops—I can do it faster," said Wikeley.

He added that a linguist can make the language more realistic, can assure that it's not a copy of an existing language and can free up time for gamers and writers.

But ultimately, the game is meant for players, said Mark Goodchild, a student at the U of A and avid gamer. In his view, the more realistic the game, the more the players will appreciate it.

"Most successful games these days create an environment that is a character in itself," he said.

"To establish a viable and syntactical language, not based on looped gibberish, reinforces a culture and contributes to the sense that the player is a part of this experience and not just a guy killing time on his sofa."

True gamers, according to Goodchild, are looking for narrative, not just run and gun.

"A cultural identity with a place and its peoples allows the players to fully invest in the story and the journey at hand," he explained.

Gamers should, in fact, expect a language that is authentic and appropriate to the game's storyline today, according to Goodchild.

"As our expectations grow, and the games become more involved, more complex, every attempt to authenticate our playing experience should be made," he said.

"With the many games released these days, I need an experience that is a step above the others and can offer me the most authentic or complex playing experience."

A SAMPLE THOFAN SENTENCE

• English: "I have a dog."

• Thofan: "Wo naahr kwahr wuuf."

• The word "naa" is taken from Mandarin, and roughly means "holding." It is an inaccurate verb but Wikeley stated it was close.

• The word for dog is an onomatopoeia (it's like calling a dog Mr Woof-Woof," said Wikeley.)

• In Asian languages, onomatopoeia is common lexicon, and isn't related to child speech or poetry as it is in English. ("There would be nothing odd about using onomatopoeia for the name of an animal," said Wikeley.)

• The sample sentence is largely a mix of two languages—Japanese and Mandarin—but there are also created elements.

• The Thofan language was created in two and a half months.

Correction!

In volume XCIV, issue 37 of the Gateway, published on 3 March, 2005, Jason Gordy, science IV, was erroneously pictured in "Streeters." The photograph actually features Elliot Kerr, arts IV. The Gateway apologizes for this error and any confusion it may have caused.

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Liberals back transfer payments for postsecondary education

MEGAN THOMAS
Ottawa Bureau Chief

OTTAWA (CUP)—If the Liberal Party has its way, a new dedicated transfer of money from the federal government to the provinces will go to ailing postsecondary institutions.

More than 2000 federal Liberals gathered in Ottawa 3 to 6 March to create policy they hope will be adopted by Prime Minister Paul Martin's government. The delegates passed a Young Liberals of Canada motion urging a dedicated transfer payment for postsecondary education.

"We think now is the time," said outgoing Young Liberal Executive member Jason Cherniak.

Cherniak, a law student at Dalhousie University in Halifax, said spending in transfer payments was cut in the mid-'90s to create fiscal order. That spending has now started to increase, and Cherniak said some of the social transfer to the provinces should be set apart to make sure enough money is spent on universities and colleges.

Currently, postsecondary education is funded out of a larger social transfer from the federal government to the provinces. There is no set amount that provinces have to spend on education.

Cherniak said policy passed at the convention is far from becoming law, but he said it's an important step because it shows more than just students want reform in the structure of postsecondary funding.

"This is a policy the Liberal Party wants," he said.

The Young Liberals, who worked together with several senators and MPs to get the motion on the conven-

tion agenda, now must rely on members of Martin's government to move the policy forward.

Nonetheless, Cherniak said making the dedicated transfer payment part of Liberal policy was a victory for the Young Liberals.

"There is a sense of having accomplished something," said Cherniak, who was one of nearly 500 Young Liberals at the biennial convention.

"This is why people should join political parties."

James Bowie, president of the Lakehead University Young Liberals, said etching the dedicated transfer into the policy manual is one step in the right direction, but it needs to be followed by several others.

"This is one solution for one problem. [Still], this is a good thing," said Bowie, a political-science student.

Bowie said he would like to see a postsecondary act created that would lay out government responsibilities for supporting education. He said it should be modelled after the Canada Health Act, which outlines the government's role in Canada's medical system.

George Soule, national chair of the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) lobby group, said the policy change is one more indication that the Martin government can't ignore reform for the postsecondary system.

"It's one step closer to actually receiving a dedicated transfer payment in Canada," Soule said.

CFS and the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations have lobbied for the dedicated payment for several years.

"We have to continue to push the federal government on this," Soule said.

Muslims demand prayer space at McGill

ERIK A. MEERE
The McGill Daily

MONTREAL (CUP)—A dispute over prayer space for Muslims at McGill University could result in a complaint to the Québec Human Rights Commission.

Last fall, the Muslim Students' Association (MSA) learned it was to be evicted from the Peterson Hall basement room that has served as its prayer space since 2002. According to the University, the space had only been intended for temporary use.

The student group demanded the University continue to provide them with prayer space on campus. In a letter to the Senate, dated 1 March, the Canadian Council on American-Islamic Relations, a Muslim rights group, threatened to file a human rights complaint on behalf of the MSA.

The University had set up a working group comprising administrators and students, including three members of the MSA, to discuss the matter, but the MSA said it would not negotiate without the presence of its advocate.

For this reason, MSA representatives did not attend the first meeting on the grounds that the University refused to allow the Council to participate in the negotiations.

"We need [the Council] to even the playing field between the two parties," said MSA spokesperson Sarah Elgazzar, adding the group would also provide the needed legal expertise.

Elgazzar explained Islam requires adherents to pray five times a day for five minutes at intervals of roughly two to three hours. Muslim members of the McGill community, who Elgazzar said number nearly 3000, therefore need a quiet space on or very close to

campus in which to pray.

"We don't really think the administration recognizes how crucial this space is to the well-being of Muslims on campus," said Elgazzar.

Riad Saloojee, executive director of the Canadian Council on American-Islamic Relations, said the legal grounds for a human rights complaint lie in both provincial and federal human-rights legislation, which affirm service providers, such as businesses and academic institutions, have an obligation to accommodate religious needs, up to the point of undue hardship.

"We don't really think the administration recognizes how crucial this space is to the well-being of Muslims on campus."

SARAH ELGAZZAR,
SPOKESPERSON,
MUSLIM STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

"If McGill is adamant in denying its Muslim students an on-campus location for daily prayers, the MSA has authorized us to file a complaint with the Québec Human Rights Commission and publicize the complaint in Canada and internationally," Saloojee said.

But McGill has maintained, as a non-denominational university, it has no responsibility to provide permanent prayer space to any religious group.

"The University provides only a secular space that can be used by any student of any religion," said Principal

Heather Munroe-Blum in a letter to senators dated 23 February, referring to the Birks Building chapel.

Elgazzar, however, said the Birks chapel cannot properly accommodate Muslim students, who need an open space in which they can kneel down.

"They'd have to take out the pews," she said, explaining the MSA would accept a secular space, such as an interfaith prayer room with enough space for the Muslim style of prayer.

Vice-Provost Anthony Masi hesitated to endorse this solution out of concern it would mean providing a permanent religious space other than the Birks chapel.

"We are reluctant to provide anything that could become a non-secular space," he said.

Masi emphasized the administration is looking at other options to help Muslim students off campus, and he urged the MSA to participate in the discussion so he and other administrators can learn about their particular needs.

While several other Canadian universities, including the University of Alberta, Concordia University, the University of Toronto and the University of British Columbia offer on-campus interfaith prayer spaces, this is not the first dispute over Muslim prayer space at a Canadian postsecondary institution.

The Council has intervened in several similar instances in recent years, in most cases successfully resolving the issue.

Another case, in which Montréal's école de technologie supérieure declined to grant prayer space to its Muslim students, is currently facing the Human Rights Commission.

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OPINION

opinion@gateway.alberta.ca • Thursday, 10 March, 2005

Videogames don't kill people; people kill people

I REMEMBER THE AXIOMS of dozens of psychology pros who've taught me over the years: correlation does not imply causation. Sadly, this important—and, frankly, obvious—notion seems to be completely lost on Washington-state legislators.

According to an article on IGN.com, the Washington state legislature is considering a bill that would hold videogame manufacturers responsible if someone commits an act of violence after playing one of their games. So, if a *Grand Theft Auto* fan happens to off your buddy, you can sue the "manufacturer or retailer [who] distributed, sold, or rented [the] violent video or computer game to a person under the age of 17 [if] the game was a factor in creating conditions that assisted or encouraged the person to cause injury or death to another person."

If you think that seems, oh, I don't know, retarded, then you're pretty much right on the money. Aside from the vague language of the above-quoted clause—it isn't clear what these "factors" or "conditions" would actually be, or how to prove that they contributed to an act of violence—this bill ignores other considerations and assumes that videogames, unlike film or television, have some sort of different power over users which prevents them from controlling their murderous impulses. As a U of T law student said upon reading the story, "I guess we should start apportioning liability to anything that has any kind of 'encouraging' factor: parents, friends, television, newspapers, magazines, spicy food, raccoons, air, liberty."

While the bill itself concedes that videogames and violence are correlates only, it fails to address the notion of free will, which underage human beings possess to a certain degree as much as adults do. Moreover, this bill also fails to address the fact that there already exist factors to prevent minors from getting their hands on particularly violent videogames, namely the Entertainment Software Rating Board's system of rating videogames titles—you know, "M" for "Teen," and other such ratings.

Obviously, certain titles should be sold or rented to kids. But if they are, holding manufacturers and retailers criminally responsible is not only a horrible precedent to set, but also ignores the fact that parents—as the legal guardians of all these potential murderers—should share a large measure of responsibility in monitoring what their kids are doing.

A big problem is that people assume that videogames are intended for children. That's why parents lose their minds every time Rock Star Games releases another iteration of their successful *Grand Theft Auto* series. And while the first mainstream videogames from the '80s—like *Super Mario Brothers*, or *Tetris*—were definitely geared towards children, the videogame industry recognized that kids, when they grew up, would probably keep playing games if the subject matter of those games grew with them.

Assuming that videogames are intended for kids because they're games is stupid. So is assuming videogames are the reason kids bring guns to school and shoot their classmates. I hate assuming this sloppy piece of legislation will get shot down isn't stupid, though, despite the fact that there seems to be a strong correlation between dumb laws and even dumber politicians.

ADAM ROZENHART
Editor-in-Chief

Writer sick, tired

I DON'T KNOW IF ANY OF YOU have noticed this before, but I'm pretty much the only one who ever writes anything in this space. It's not supposed to be like this—technically, this is a space for any of our editors to wax philosophical for about 100 words. But, Tuesday in and Thursday out, here I am, filling this space with something, because the rest of the editors are too lazy to help me out in the slightest.

If you see one of our editors walking around, punch them in the throat for me. Bastards.

DAVID BERRY
Opinion Editor/Totally Bitter

LETTERS

Dead mounties aren't funny, so why are dead hookers?

Ever snorted cocaine off a dead Mountie? Perhaps you find this question offensive considering the recent tragedy in Mayerthorpe. Something tells me that if I submitted it at an editorial meeting for the *Gateway's* Purity Test (10 February), it would be considered politically incorrect. Yet, for the past two years, the *Gateway's* Valentine's Day purity quizzes have asked readers if they've "ever snorted coke off a dead hooker."

Removing the question would be easy to do, but I'd like the staff to ask themselves why joking about dead hookers is inappropriate. Did I say inappropriate? Sorry, a better adjective for this case would be "totally fucked."

The *Gateway* could very well claim that they didn't actually have Edmonton's so-called "dead hookers" in mind when it formulated its quiz; perhaps the editors simply don't read the paper, or at least they don't read all the way to the back end of the paper where little blubs inform the public that another murdered prostitute's body has turned up. Four police deaths are a tragedy, but over 20 dead prostitutes are barely worth grieving over, barely even worth an inquiry. It took almost 60 sex-worker deaths in Vancouver for local police to bat an eye. You could sort a lot of coke off 60 bodies.

Let's hope the *Gateway* sent a copy of the quiz to Alexander Turnovsky and Stephen Kummerfeld of Regina. You see, these men, who were both university students like you and me at the time, actually did kill a prostitute one evening in 1995. It's true that no cocaine was snorted, but that probably didn't make a difference to the prostitute, Pamela George, who happened to be a mother of two. They were given light sentences of seven years. Something tells me that if they had beaten a Mountie to death, those sentences would have been longer.

Why connect the Mountie story to the tale of 20 slaughtered sex workers? Because, while many may consider it an extreme move, I'd like to suggest that perhaps all lives are equally worth grieving over. The men who died in the Mayerthorpe disaster deserve to be remembered, and the public should be angry that their lives were cut short. The same is true for the 20 hookers killed here whose names I don't have the room to list. It would be nice to live in a world where the topic of "dead hookers" was taken as seriously as that of slain Mounties.

TESS ELSWORTH
Arts III

SU bars should aim higher

I just read David Berry's piece from the 1 March issue ("For a successful bar, SU, you have to aim pretty low"), and I'd like to point out that he's wrong.

There is definitely something wrong with the bars on campus, but it isn't that they don't cater to

the lowest common denominator (LCD); it's that they don't cater to anyone. They play pop music that would get in the mainstream crowds, and they play it loud, but they don't have the cheap drinks and they don't have the established attendance. On the other hand, these factors are mostly going to detract from any other crowd that they could get. Why would the hip, alternative crowd go to RATT and drink Rickard's Red over blaring Nickelback when they could go to the Sugarbowl and sip Leffe over Fourtet?

Also, appealing to the LCD is not a sure way to make money. Look at the Globe, Armoury, Bar None and the like, and see how many times they've changed owners and reopened in the last couple of years. There are a lot of big bars in this city, with established clientele and fierce competition. They generally run with low margins and high volumes, so new bars that can't yet move piles of booze have to operate at a loss, advertise and hope that they'll pick up.

Possibly a better strategy would be to move further away from the LCD. For the Powerplant, that would mean more and better live shows, even a different variety of alternative entertainment every night. Aim for a cross of the Sidetrack and New City. For RATT: give up on being a bar—make it a lounge. Get new furniture. Clean or replace the damn carpet. Ditch the cheesy lighting. With the view up there, 90 per cent of the work to establish a great atmosphere is done. Keep the music alternative, relaxed, and subdued enough to talk over. Maybe mix it up with some live jazz or a deep house DJ. Offer a fine martini, and aim for something like Savoy with a view.

It really is possible to have bars that are interesting and profitable. The ones on campus are just lacking vision and consistency.

REID ORSHEN
Graduate Studies I

Blame poor SU bars on bad service, bad food

I must say, I agree wholeheartedly with David Berry's article about the sad, sad condition of bars on campus ("For a successful bar, SU, you have to aim pretty low," 1 March), though I might not classify myself as one of the LCDs.

The German and Scandinavian clubs have patronized the Powerplant and Dewey's Lounge, two once-fine establishments, every Thursday for more than a decade. In this academic year, we have noticed a significant worsening in the service and the food. For example, several weeks ago, two of our members waited about 70 minutes for their burgers, at a time when these establishments were not busy. In addition, one of the members discovered a piece of plastic in his burger while in the process of eating it.

This is not just one singular occurrence. Every Thursday, regardless of the number of patrons in the Powerplant or Dewey's, our members wait similar amounts of time, not just for food, but also for the attention of our respective servers. We wouldn't be so concerned if somehow these establishments were overflowing with people, but since they're not—maybe because of the poor service, bad food and high prices—we cannot come up with a good explanation for the lackluster performance of these Students' Union-run facilities. It is unreasonable to expect a server to at least greet you in less than 15 minutes; it is unreasonable to get a beer in less than 25 minutes from the time you've ordered it? Maybe we should go the kitchen and make our own burgers and fries—at least the plastic we find in our food would be our own fault, and maybe our orders would be right too!

Our disappointment and frustration is not unique—other students have obviously experienced the

mediocrity that is the service at the Powerplant and Dewey's. How many patrons do these establishments have to lose in order to wake up and smell the stale coffee that they themselves have brewed?

But then, maybe it's too much to expect even a mediocre performance from an SU business.

NICOLE VICKERS
Arts IV
U of A German Club

Stop all the swearing, please

While I can appreciate Jessica Faulstich's point about the pointlessness of a circular debate ("Hey, you with the letter: shut the fuck up, please," 8 March), particularly one that takes place on the letters page of a newspaper, I would ask that, next time she chooses to make her point, she not resort to swearing to do so.

Frankly, I find the sheer amount of swearing in the *Gateway* as a whole rather distasteful and think anyone that has managed to make it to a University level should have a better vocabulary at their disposal.

CHARLES XIE-XUING
Science III

Letters to the editor should be dropped off at room 304 of the Students' Union Building, or e-mailed to opinion@gateway.alberta.ca.

The *Gateway* reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of any letter it deems racist, sexist, libelous, or otherwise hateful in nature.

Letters to the editor should be no longer than 350 words, and should include the name, student identification number, program, and year of study of the author, to be considered for publication. Anonymous submissions will not be considered. I'd also like to draw your attention to the "350" part up there—that's no joke. Keep them short, punks.



I have failed you, dear reader



DAVID BERRY

I am a hopeless, bitter failure. Here I sit, a man who has struggled and striven, toiled and milled, and now I hang my head, a tear rolling down my sagging, downtrodden cheek.

I tried, though, dear reader. I tried to come up with something to write. I read Google News, I read *Harper's*. I read the *Globe and Mail*. Hell, I even read the *Gateway's* news section, desperately searching for some hard-hitting topic on which to spread my wisdom. But I've got nothing.

It would have been insightful, too. It would have shed a veritable ray of enlightened sunshine on your dreary little world. You would have started into it, unassuming at first, nodding along with the thesis, marveling at the clever metaphors and Wildean wit, laughing to yourself at the creative uses of the word "fuck." Then, just after you finished it, you would have set your eyes across the room, nodded your head a few times in appreciation, and thought to yourself, "That David Berry sure did shed some much-needed light on a complex and multi-faceted issue of which I was largely unaware." Then you would have started listening to your psych prof again.

But, no. Instead, you sit, unenlightened, the vague idea that something is amiss floating around in your head. You begin to get frustrated; your eyes squint menacingly at the page, searching desperately for something, some kernel of wisdom, some skillful turn

of phrase—anything, really. Anything to justify your further attention.

For what it's worth, I'm sorry. I really did try. I probably should have just given up. I probably should have just admitted defeat, walked away from my computer, and gone back to the confines of my bedroom to read romantic poetry and sip bittersweet wine from a stained glass. But I stayed here, dear reader, and I gave it my all, and isn't there something—some small, intangible thing—to be appreciated in that?

Honestly, though, my sweet friends: is it not more ennobling to watch a man's failures than his triumphs? Don't we learn more from the man who has struggled against fate's twisted design and failed miserably than the glorious hero who strides into town and delivers a shining article on the benefits of Senate reform? Isn't it more heart-warming to read 600 words of masturbatory drivel with no point to it than to find out how the new, expanded LRT system will help you? I think it is. Call me crazy, but I think it is.

And so, dear reader, it is for you that I struggle through. It is for you that, despite the fact this is wasting good paper, I bare my shame publicly. It is for you that I work, that I strive, that I toil, all for naught. It is for you that I come up with at least four different sentences that start with "It is for you..."

I could have just packed it in. I could have just thrown in the towel, hung up the cleats, stopped, uh, clicking the keyboard. But I didn't. I strove through it. I pushed against overwhelming odds and my better judgment. I fought, tooth and nail, and even though I didn't deliver, I did, in some measure, achieve my goal: you read, against all odds, all the way to the end. And for that, dear reader, I apologize profusely.

Don't blame the student politicians for being boring

The ridiculously obsolete democratic system is to blame for vague platitudes



DERREK GREBSKI

I'm sorry. Very, very sorry. Sorry, you see, because this is yet another damned article that involves the Students' Union elections. I didn't want to do it, God help me, but there is just no way that I can allow the potential for such meaningful comedy to slip through my fingers like, say, the last ten years of my life, or the health of my liver. If you're actually read the candidate platforms, which almost certainly none of you have, you will understand what I mean.

Frankly, I wouldn't have even read them if they had not been brought to my attention by someone else. Only then did I begin to grasp the immense gravity of university politics, as they're truly crafting the social and economic leaders of the future. They're coming along nicely, too, particularly in the majestic dance of meaningless political rhetoric.

Now, let's imagine that you're going to vote in the election this week (no, seriously). Needless to say, you'll want to ensure that your vote, one of literally dozens cast, is used as wisely as possible, so you turn to the platform statements of each candidate to use as a basis for your choice. You are, after all, an informed voter. Good for you! Let's have a look at how each presidential candidate summarizes his intentions if elected, shall we? Yes, we shall.

Alex Abboud claims that, "If I have to sum up what I want to do as presi-

dent, it is to improve the quality of education and student life on campus." And what is your central promise, Danny Bennett? "It's to be the voice of the students." Graham Lettner? "My platform focuses on engaging the students." And, last, but not least, Wayne Poon promises that, "My main focus is connecting the Students' Union with students."

300 years in advance. Honestly, what kind of staggering moron is stunned to find that all the candidates plan to address the abusive relationship between student financing and high educational costs? Would you believe that another common thread amongst the contenders features a desire to solve the distance between the student population and the Students' Union? I wouldn't lie to you about something this important, dear reader.

If you ask me, and you probably won't, this is a choice example of why modern elections are so poorly received by a vast, vast majority of the semi-conscious population. Everyone knows what the candidates are going to promise, and everyone knows that they probably won't deliver. The sun comes up, and the sun goes down. I find it hilarious that apathy among young voters is generally blamed on laziness and other trivial interests, when the political process is so predictable and choreographed that it makes pornography seem like riveting theatre by comparison.

To tell the truth, I really want to make merciless fun of the hilariously transparent slogans being thrown around by these candidates like stool from a tree full of monkeys, but I can't. What else are they going to say? The whole concept of platform statements, especially in a polarized environment like a university, is a brutal waste of time, and if there is someone who feels a stab of surprise as he or she reads that Danny Bennett wants to represent the students in his post as Students' Union president, that person should be caught and thrown in a lake.

I know it's probably still frozen, and I don't care.

To tell the truth, I really want to make merciless fun of the hilariously transparent slogans being thrown around by these candidates like stool from a tree full of monkeys, but I can't.

There they are, quoted in living detail, directly from the candidates. Aren't they remarkable? Of course, these are only the summary sentences; the actual platforms are far more verbose and, remarkably, even more politically stereotypical. I will admit, however, that I am pleased to see that Abboud wishes to improve student life instead of specifically aiming to degrade it, as I had long feared.

Sadly, I can't really blame the candidates, because the ridiculously obsolete democratic process requires that these poor souls cobble together statements of intent, despite the fact that absolutely everyone knows exactly what they'll contain roughly

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Honours is more than a fancy degree

KRISTINE
OWSAM

It has recently come to my attention that some students on this campus think the honours program is nothing more than a way for pretentious assholes to lord their minimal accomplishments over everyone else.

Now, I'm certainly not denying that I'm a pretentious asshole, and hearing of this derision for honours gave me an excuse to be even more of one for a few hours, as I called everyone I know—boyfriend, friends, parents, my dentist, random numbers out of the phonebook—to, well, kind of my minimal accomplishments over them.

See, I'm in honours. Honours history, to be specific. I also work full time at the Gateway. This means that, most of the time, I'm very, very busy, which I like to pretend gives me an excuse to be incredibly indulgent and self-righteous when people who have never experienced the program make sweeping statements about how it's no big deal—like, for example, assuming that all it takes to get "honours" tacked on to the end of your BA is enough foresight to sign up at the end of your first year.

I'm not denying that it's relatively easy to get into honours, and that's probably where this misconception comes from. In history, you need a 3.0 average—with a 3.3 average in your history courses—to get accepted. The trick is staying in, and that's what some people fail to understand.

In honours history, one has to maintain this same average or better throughout one's third and fourth years in order to get that oh-so-special word on their degree. That may not sound like much of a challenge to those of you in "regular" programs, but the department's sure as hell go over their way to make sure it's not easy.

To get an honours degree from the history department, for example, one has to take 42 senior-level credits in history, 30 of which have to be divided between three specific fields of interest. Three have to be in a non-Western history, three have to be in a course whose focus is before 1500, and twelve have to be in 400-level courses. Students are also "strongly encouraged" to take two methodology courses, and have to enrol in History 500 and 501, which force us to churn out about 20,000 words between them, 15,000 of which become our thesis, a thoroughly researched, 50-page interpretation of a historical period/event/thing we choose in conjunction with our advisor. Needless to say, this isn't just some throwaway assignment we can toss off in March of our last year.

I guess the point to all this self-indulgent whining is that the honours program is more than just a way for students with some foresight to feel extra special when they hang their degree on the padded divider of their cubicle.

Honours is a way for students to get a more focused, in-depth education than their counterparts in "regular" programs. Because of this, a lot of specific universities as a lot of prestigious universities require that you have an undergraduate honours degree before they'll even consider admitting you to graduate studies. While this isn't a requirement for all, or even most, programs, having an honours degree will greatly increase your chances of getting into graduate studies at most universities. And yes, it also looks better on a resumé.

That said, honours isn't for everyone. If you're not academically minded and aren't interested in pursuing education beyond your undergraduate degree, it's mostly a waste of time. Because you can't do a minor, your education will be less broad, and no doubt you'll start to wonder at some point why you've spent eight hours a day for the last month in the library as you struggle to finish your thesis in your fourth year.

But next time you see someone weeping quietly into their copy of *The Essential Foucault* in Rutherford South, remember: they may look miserable, but they're secretly thinking how much better they are than you.



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Mayerthorpe shooting rashes questions about pot

RAMON
OSTAD

Despite the obvious heartbreak an event like the Mayerthorpe cop killings can cause, there is also some good that can come from such an event. It seems that whenever there is a tragedy of any scale, some important underlying issues come to the surface. In this case, there have been a lot of them—the failure of the gun registry, the incompetence of RCMP leaders, the fact that four officers were sent to bust a man who they didn't know had threatened police. Along with those, though, is the raging debate about the legalization of marijuana.

Many have scoffed at the idea, claiming that even if marijuana were legal, it wouldn't necessarily mean that it would stop being associated with organized crime. There are also medical concerns, like addiction, that need to be taken into account, as well as the idea that marijuana could be used as a "gateway" drug that leads to more dangerous addictions, like cocaine.

Despite my article last week on teenage drug addicts, I'm not a member of this camp of thought. But before you label me a hypocrite—as many have already done, numerous times—I did point out that I don't object to casual

marijuana use. I say casual because, to me, weed is more like alcohol than it is like cocaine. In fact, this whole pot debate reminds me an awful lot of prohibition.

Ah, the '20s. For those of you too young to remember it like I do, this same kind of argument was made in that time about alcohol. Overindulgence and good Canadian whiskey forced governments in North America to criminalize liquor, which in turn made guys like Al Capone into vice-profiteering kingpins. It also spawned the original Scarface, which is still one of the best movies ever made.

I say casual because, to me, weed is more like alcohol than it is like cocaine. In fact, this whole pot debate reminds me an awful lot of prohibition.

Now, over 80 years later, alcohol is legal, Al Capone is dead, and the may-sayers who claimed that legalizing alcohol would only make the problem worse have descendants who make the same claims about marijuana. However, these people, like their ancestors, are choosing to ignore some very obvious facts—the fact that alcohol and marijuana addictions are

due more to psychological problems than bio-chemical dependencies. They also seem to think that, because legalizing weed won't instantly stop it from being produced by criminals, it's a waste of time. But these kinds of things take time, and impatience for any sort of learning curve is part of the reason these debates are started.

Also, it's my personal belief that legalizing marijuana would thoroughly hinder its status as a "gateway" drug. I'm pretty sure the only reason it is a "gateway" drug is because it's being put in the same bracket as more severe illegal substances like crystal meth or heroin. The truth, though, is that weed is nowhere near as damaging as other types of drugs, but, because they're all in the same caste, people will be more encouraged to discover what else that "market" has to offer. Admittedly, it's a bit of an ambiguous argument, but it's also one that I don't hear considered very often.

I know it sounds like I'm being an idealist, and that I think everyone would use it responsibly if it were legalized, but believe me, I'm more cynical than that. However, the same arguments can and have been made about alcohol, which is equally as recreational, far more lethal—according to some—and certainly not to be used in any medicinal form. So, before we make any rash judgments about reconsidering decriminalization, there should be some long, tough thought put into this, and perhaps even a trip to Amsterdam.

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THE GATEWAY

'We versus they'-style arguing doesn't get us anywhere

CARSON
CHENG

"Abortion may be wrong for you, but it's not wrong for me." "You're religious types should learn to respect us, the homosexuals, and our desire to be allowed to marry; we respect your beliefs, you should respect ours." "Human rights are not cultural norms; they are basic and intrinsic to all humans, across all cultures."

These statements are rather typical in public discourse these days, but on closer inspection, the first two and the last cannot simultaneously be true. The first two presume a belief in relativism, the position that truths are always relative. The last usually presumes a belief in cultural imperialism.

It's obviously imperialist when we go into another's culture and say that "X" is a right, when they don't recognize it as such, and then actively work to change their views towards "X." For instance, democracy is not a political system universally recognized as the best, nor does everyone universally want it. It's easy to see, then, that the US's regime change in Iraq, is cultural imperialism. People usually believe in relativism in response to such imperialism. It's reasonable, of course, that we would want to respect other people's cultures or beliefs, and relativism seems to allow us to have such respect.

The problem, though, is that one cannot claim, for example, that we must respect other cultures' beliefs towards, for example, female circumcision, and on the other hand claim

that freedom from female genital mutilation is a basic human right. Similarly, one cannot claim homosexuality may be a sin, then turn around and say that gay rights are basic human rights. You can't simultaneously be a relativist and an imperialist.

The point is that if you want to say gay rights—or, for that matter, freedom from FGM—are basic, intrinsic, human rights, then you should be a staunch cultural imperialist. One consequence of this, of course, is that if you believe democracy is the best political system, then you should support the US's continual meddling with other countries' affairs, including bullying them, so long as it spreads democracy. Another consequence is that statements like, "Abortion might be wrong for you, but not for me" are just nonsense.

But if you want to say that other people's beliefs should be respected and, more importantly, *tolerated*, then be a staunch relativist, and say that there are no objective truths. One consequence of this is that statements about "basic human rights" have no meaning beyond you or your culture.

Of course, there is sort of a false dichotomy here: relativism and cultural imperialism are not the only options. However, the nuance is usually lost in the noise that is produced when the "we" group starts arguing with the "they" group. It's all too easy, in response to "them," to say that "X" might be wrong for you, but not for me." It's also much too easy to complain that someone—possibly supposed—human right is being violated.

Furthermore, I'm sure you can now see the hilarity in seeing public discourse consisting of one group saying "X" is wrong," then another group saying "X" is not wrong; stop imposing your values on us." Just what is the

difference between imposing the view that "X is not wrong," compared to imposing the view that "X is wrong" on other people? Is morality being relativized here, or is what's being said nonsense?

So I suppose the real point here is that this "we" versus "they" arguing is unproductive, misses all the little nuances in the real issues, and is no better than CNN's *Crossfire*. (Thanks, Jon Stewart.)

Dave Alexander's TOP TEN

Reasons you're in the bathroom

- 10 None of the other furniture in the house flushes.
- 9 You're partying—namely, eating expired medicine and snorting potpourri and playing "barjo" on the toilet brush.
- 8 Seeking inspiration for what will surely be the greatest limerick about diarrhea ever.
- 7 Beating a drifter to death in the bathtub with a Soap On A Rope, because nothing that smells like sandalwood could be that bad.
- 6 Learning the hard way that seafood curry tacsos make great leftovers—when properly refrigerated.
- 5 Hiding from terrorists, cat burglars and Dracula.
- 4 Trying to determine what's better: the Toilet Duck or a real duck.
- 3 Glue-huffing your way to a shit-hot lavender meadow high.
- 2 Gettin' yo' crap on.
- 1 Why, uh, just found this Archie Digest lying here open on the sink while I was applying this hand cream when my pants fell down and I fell backwards on this toilet plunger.

Adscam only hurts federalism

JARED
MILNE

As one might expect, Jean Chretien and Paul Martin's testimonies at the Gomery inquiry made little headway into giving Canadians answers on the sponsorship scandal. Ostensibly done to keep Québec in Canada, \$100 million of our money went into a slush fund for Liberal-friendly ad firms. Chretien also tried to make a fool of Justice Gomery and the whole inquiry with a cute little stunt involving the personalized golf balls he's received from other heads of state around the world.

Chretien's shameless arrogance probably shouldn't come as a surprise, and neither should the fact that he shamelessly used our money to reward his political cronies. His political deviousness is no surprise either, even though the unity slush fund didn't work the way he'd hoped, the whole mess fell straight into Paul Martin's lap. It's no coincidence that Chretien retired scant months before the issuing of the Auditor General's report that brought this whole sordid affair to light.

The saddest irony about "adscam" is that, if anything, it's harmed the cause of federalism in Québec. What kind of a message does it send to Quebecers that the only way the federal government can keep their province in Canada is through graft and kickbacks? Quebecers are just as angry about this as the rest of us, and probably also humiliated about

it as well. If this scandal sends a bad message to Quebecers about the state of federalism, it certainly doesn't help Québec in the eyes of the rest of the country, either. It also serves to harm the credibility of federalists who seek to bridge the gap between their province and the rest of Canada, like Stéphane Dion and the late Claude Ryan.

In the wake of the scandal, the Liberals lost 17 seats in the 2004 election. The Bloc Québécois gained 16. This hardly seems like a victory for federalism. If support for sovereignty in Québec goes up after news of the scandal breaks, Chretien can hardly claim to have "saved" Canada. One can only imagine what Chretien's old mentor, Pierre Trudeau, would have thought if he could have seen this. It's as if Christmas came early for Gilles Duceppe.

This sort of crap does nothing to help federalism. Maybe, just maybe, actually recognizing Québec as the distinct society that it is could work better than kickbacks and graft. It's something Dion has said would help, and it's one of the measures Chretien adopted back after the last referendum in 1995. And besides, we already have examples of asymmetry in our federal system, and not just with Québec.

It may be, of course, that Chretien just wanted to create a political headache for Paul Martin, both from the scandal itself and Martin's inability to live up to his promise that "heads will roll." If so, that's just wonderful. He's playing cards with the country's future, rolling the dice just like Brian Mulroney claimed to have done. One question remains: What do you do if, when you're playing craps, the dice come up snake eyes?

MARCH 14 - 20

WELLNESS WEEK

SPIRITUAL | EMOTIONAL | MENTAL | PHYSICAL | SOCIAL

Monday, March 14

U OF A ON THE MOVE WALK | 12:15 PM | QUAD
THE STUDENT DISTRESS CENTRE PRESENTS | 3:00 PM | ALUMNI ROOM

Tuesday, March 15

MORE TO SUCCESS AT UNIVERSITY BESIDES GRADES | 2:00 PM | ALUMNI ROOM
TICKLE YOUR FUNNY BONE | 7:00 PM | POWERPLANT

Wednesday, March 16

U OF A'S BIGGEST YOGA CLASS | 12:10 PM - 12:50 PM | MAIN GYM
TOBACCO AND THE MEDIA | 6:00 PM | SUB STAGE

Thursday, March 17

U OF A WELLNESS FAIR | 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM | SUB MAIN FLOOR & DINWOODIE LOUNGE

Friday, March 18

10 HOURS OF ULTIMATE FRISBEE | 8:00 AM - 6:00 PM | VARSITY FIELD

Sunday, March 20

U OF A OLD TYME SKATING PARTY | 2:45 PM - 4:45 PM | CLARE DRAKE ARENA



Sadly, men and women can't just be friends



DANIELLE PROULX

In a million years, I would never have imagined I would be writing this. I'm about to say something that no woman says if she can avoid it, and let me tell you, she will go to great lengths to do just that. I'm about to confess, and I'm going to say this quick because it's going to sting a little: I was wrong. I, a woman, was wrong about friendships.

In my defence, I clung tenaciously to the most of my beliefs about male/female friendships. But, alas, I went down with my ship, spluttering all the way. I have been forced to accept a fact that goes against every fibre of my being by raising my tiny white flag and surrendering to the wealth of empirical evidence that suggests a straight guy can never be friends with a straight girl.

I just don't understand it: when a girl is nice to a guy, are we saying things that we are unaware of? When I say, "Hello, my name is Danielle. Do you have the notes from Monday's class?" is it secretly coming out as, "Hello, my name is Danielle. Would you please serve me a heaping order of dick?" If so, then girls—or me, at

"I just don't understand it: when a girl is nice to a guy, are we saying things that we are unaware of? When I say, 'Hello, my name is Danielle. Do you have the notes from Monday's class?' is it secretly coming out as, 'Hello, my name is Danielle. Would you please serve me a heaping order of dick?'"

least—are much more subliminally aware of the fact than I had ever imagined. Really, though: there is no person in this fine school who can name one straight friend of the opposite gender that they have never had an interest in nailing, or who hasn't had an interest in nailing them. I know what you're thinking: "Oh, what about Bobby from poli sci last semester? We're such good friends, and that's all there is to it."

Bobby wants a piece. If not now, then he did at one point, or he's already gotten some from you and moved on. If he denies all of those, then his sexuality is automatically up for question. Any way you turn it, there's simply no room for platonic friendship. Platonic friendships began the war with sex around the time you hit puberty at 13, and there's just no going back—they'll never peacefully coexist.

To look at it in a more general light: girls, no guy will ever come out to talk to you because he saw you across the room and thought, "Gee whiz, I bet she and I could be best lifelong buddies." He's coming over because

certain portions of his anatomy want to be bested in a long-buddies with your most precious goodies. Really, any girl who's made it to this point in her life should have come to realize some basic facts about guys: they are led by only one portion of their anatomies, and it's generally not the one with the brain in its head. On top of this, they are extremely persistent, and somewhat myopic when it comes to "the sex."

Then again, maybe guys have been right all along: maybe it's all our fault. Perhaps we should ask our chest to stop staring at their eyes. Maybe we should wear "occupied" or "vacant" signs on our backs so as to avoid such confusions about our "intentions"—we wouldn't want to be accused of giving off mixed signals.

Actually, come to think of it, maybe when they accuse us of such mixed messaging, we're actually guilty. I mean, in their defence, it must be hard for them to hear our mouths say, "I have a boyfriend/We're just friends/I have no interest in you," when our foreheads are clearly stamped with "PLEASE FUCK ME."

We should be participating in missile defense



COLIN BERNEY

Well, I guess Canada should just pull out of NORAD and NATO. I mean, if we don't want to help protect this continent, why bother? Our government has told the Americans that we'll help watch out for incoming missiles, but we won't help them shoot any down, because that makes perfect logical sense.

But besides the fuzzy logic, that the government has decided to not participate with the Americans in missile defense means that they seem to have forgotten our long history. In 1958, the Diefenbaker government agreed to purchase Bomarc anti-aircraft missiles from the Americans. The catch was that the missiles were kind of useless unless they were fitted with nuclear warheads. Some in Diefenbaker's cabinet were opposed to the nukes, but he wouldn't make a decision—remind you of anyone?—and, in 1963, the government fell apart and Diefenbaker narrowly lost the ensuing election. Lester Pearson, the new prime minister—and also a Liberal—immediately accepted the nukes, and the Bomarc were in service in Canada until 1971.

Also, in 1983, Trudeau—another Liberal—agreed to let the Americans test cruise missiles over our air space, and test they did. Although they were only testing the guidance system, there were still protests and peace demonstrations. The government defended itself by pointing out that we have an obligation to our allies under NORAD and NATO, an obligation the Martin government seems to be dismissing.

It doesn't end there, though. Now that we've said "no" to the Americans,

our defense minister has said that we want Canadian companies to get some of the technological research and development contracts. Here I thought we wanted no part in missile defense. Americans now claim that we are simply freeloaders, riding along with the big American military to protect us, which is entirely true, especially given the current state of our armed forces—but you'll never hear the Liberals acknowledge this.

Our hypocrisy aside, though, it's obvious that we should be participating with the Americans in missile defense. They're going to do it anyway, and if there is a missile flying from China or Korea over Canada, they won't bother wasting the time to call us to tell us they're going to shoot it down, regardless of the fact that we want them to. Some say participating is an affront to our sovereignty, but I say it would be more of an affront to

our sovereignty if they were launching things into our airspace without our permission, which is what they'll be doing if we aren't involved.

As well, we're putting a lot of trust and faith in our enemies, first in that we're assuming they're not likely to fire anything at all, but more importantly in assuming that they'll actually hit their target. Even the American missiles are not 100 per cent accurate, and they have the best missile systems in the world. What's to say that an enemy missile would not fall short of its target? If you look at a globe, the shortest line from, say, North Korea to Washington DC passes right over Canada. If they miss, which is highly probable, we get hit.

So, even disregarding the fact that we're ignoring both NATO and NORAD, it's probably to our advantage to get on board with missile defense. Or we could always duck.

THE BURLAP SACK

This sack beating is being administered pre-emptively to all of you lazy little undergrads who will not be voting in the SU election. You see, voter turnout in SU elections here at the U of A tends to struggle to break past the 30 per cent threshold; last year, for example, roughly a quarter of you selfish automations voted, causing SU types to wax ecstatic about the rousing "success" of their "get out and vote" campaign.

Granted, the Students' Union doesn't exactly inspire a whole lot of confidence in the political process; most of you have certainly realized by now that tuition will rise and parking on campus will suck regardless of who occupies the suspiciously cushy offices on the second floor of SUB. And, admittedly, this year's candi-

dates—a healthy mix of anti-social weirdos, geeky policy wonks, profiling frat boys and chuckers in general—hasn't done anything to stir up much in the way of passion or popular discontent among the (non) voting public, but this can't be used as a blanket excuse for apathy. In fact, one could argue that there is a chicken-and-egg phenomenon at work here: because voter participation is pathetic, so is the resulting administration.

So into the sack with about 80 per cent of you. One would think having to put up with a year of being represented by dweebs is probably punishment enough, but frankly it hasn't seemed to work for as long as I've been going here.

ROSS MOROZ

The Burlap Sack is a semi-regular feature where a person or group who needs to be put in a sack and beaten is ridiculed in print. No sack beatings are actually administered.

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Terms and conditions apply. Offer valid while supplies last. Offer available to full-time students on new activation only. Offer is a postage and all items must be included. * Insurance is not a mandatory purchase in the province of British Columbia.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL/CIRCLE K PRESENTS:

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SATURDAY, MARCH 12, 2005



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5pm to 1am

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March 17, 2005

**PEER HEALTH
EDUCATORS**

Students' Union Employment Opportunities



TERMS OF OFFICE: 1 May 2005 to 30 April 2006 (in most cases)

APPLICATION DEADLINE: Monday, 14 March 2005, 5:00 pm NO EXCEPTIONS

Submit COMPLETE PACKAGE to 2-900 SUB

APPLICATION FORMS: Available at SU Reception Desk 2-900 SUB, and SUB, HUB, CAB, ETLIC Info Booths and Faculty Association Offices or online at www.su.ualberta.ca.

Please note use of distinct application for speaker position.

***All Director Positions Are 30 Hours Per Week**

IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS

- Please submit only single sided documents. We thank everyone who applies, however ONLY shortlisted applicants will be notified.
- Please be available for the noted interview time.
- Applicants must be undergraduate students and have paid full Students' Union fees.
- Positions subject to Council ratification and signing of employment contract.

ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT ACADEMIC

Reports to the VP Academic. Assists and reports on various academic issues – coordinating projects related to academic affairs. Represent the VP Academic and serve as the resource person for the AAB, GFCSC and student reps on University committees. This position requires a minimum of 20 hours per week in office time.

Remuneration: \$1098/month May-August

\$961/month September-April

For further information contact the VP Academic.

Interviews scheduled for Tuesday, March 29, starting at 5:00 pm.

ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT EXTERNAL

Reports to the VP External. Assists with organization of on and off-campus events designed to introduce members of the community and prospective students to the Students' Union and the U of A. Minimum of 20 hours per week in office time required.

Remuneration: \$1098/month May-August

\$961/month September-April

For further information contact the VP External.

Interviews scheduled for Tuesday, March 29, starting at 5:00 pm.

ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT STUDENT LIFE

Reports to the VP Student Life. Assists with the programming and the volunteer management components of the VP Student Life's portfolio. Minimum of 20 hours per week in office time required.

Remuneration: \$1098/month May-August

\$961/month September-April

For further information contact the VP Student Life.

Interviews scheduled for Wednesday, March 30, starting at 5:00 pm.

SPEAKER OF STUDENTS' COUNCIL

Reports to Students' Council. Chairs all meetings of Students' Council in accordance with Roberts' Rules of Order and the Standing Orders of Students' Council. Position currently under review.

Remuneration: \$135.00/meeting

Interviews scheduled for Thursday, March 31, starting at 7:00 pm.

APPLICATIONS FOR THIS POSITION MUST BE MADE ON THE SEPARATE APPLICATION TITLED "SPEAKER APPLICATION".

UNIVERSITY POLICY AND INFORMATION OFFICER

Reports to the VP Academic. Provides information and advice regarding U of A policies, priorities, and practices through research and analysis. Assists in writing and researching policies. Conducts research into policies and practices of other post-secondary institutions or other matters related to the academic portfolio as required. This position requires a minimum of 20 hours per week in office time.

Remuneration: under review

For further information contact the VP Academic.

Interviews scheduled for Friday, March 25, starting at 5:00 pm.

CHIEF RETURNING OFFICER

Reports to the House Committee of Students' Council and oversees all electoral logistics. Must be familiar with election process and bylaws. Excellent project management skills are required to succeed in this position.

Remuneration: \$3744.00 flat fee

For further information contact the President.

Interviews scheduled for Thursday, March 31, starting at 5:00 pm.

ECOS (Environmental Coordination Office of Students) DIRECTOR*

Reports to the Manager Student Services. The Director of ECOS is responsible for researching, developing and implementing environmental programs for the Students' Union on Campus.

Remuneration: \$1333/month

For further information contact the Manager of Student Services at 492-4236.

Interviews scheduled for Monday, March 21, starting at 4:00 pm.

INFORMATION SERVICES DIRECTOR*

Reports to the Manager Student Services. Responsible for overseeing all aspects of the service, including various online listing services and five information desks. The Director will also work with and provide support and direction to the Associate Directors of the service and manage, train and evaluate hourly staff.

Remuneration: \$1406/month

For further information contact the Manager of Student Services at 492-4236.

Interviews scheduled for Thursday, March 24, starting at 5:00 pm.

OMBUD SERVICE DIRECTOR*

Reports to the Manager Student Services. Must possess strong listening skills and be an effective mediator. Must be familiar with University and Students' Union grievance and appeal procedures, and will represent and advise students on such matters.

Remuneration: \$1318/month

Term: This position requires a two-year commitment.

For further information contact the Manager of Student Services at 492-4236.

Interviews scheduled for Thursday, March 24, starting at 6:30 pm.

SAFEGWALK DIRECTOR*

Reports to the Manager Student Services. Work with other units on campus to improve and promote safety. Excellent opportunity to develop volunteer management and administrative skills.

Remuneration: \$1346/month

For further information contact the Manager of Student Services at 492-4236.

Interviews scheduled for Monday, March 21, starting at 8:00 pm.

STUDENT DISTRESS CENTRE DIRECTOR*

Reports to the Manager Student Services. In conjunction with the Distress Line, offers peer counselling, crisis intervention and information/referral services to the campus community. Must have at least one year of comparable peer-counselling experience.

Remuneration: \$1346/month

For further information contact the Manager of Student Services at 492-4236.

Interviews scheduled for Tuesday, March 22, starting at 4:00 pm.

STUDENT GROUPS DIRECTOR*

Reports to the Manager Student Services. Organize and provide support to a diverse array of student groups as the Director of Student Groups. Provide administration and support to these groups.

Remuneration: \$1333/month

For further information contact the Manager of Student Services at 492-4236.

Interviews scheduled for Monday, March 21, starting at 6:00 pm.

CAMPUS FOOD BANK MANAGER*

Reports to the Campus Food Bank Board of Directors. Responsible for all aspects of the Campus Food Bank, including volunteer recruitment, training, etc.

Remuneration: \$1333/month

For further information contact the Manager of Student Services at 492-4236.

Interview Time TBA.

Volunteer Opportunities Boards & Committees



TERMS OF OFFICE: 1 May 2005 to 30 April 2006 (in most cases)

APPLICATION DEADLINE: Monday, 14 March 2005, 5:00 pm NO EXCEPTIONS

Submit COMPLETE PACKAGE to 2-900 SUB

APPLICATION FORMS: Available at SU Reception Desk 2-900 SUB, and SUB, HUB, CAB, ETLIC Info Booths and Faculty Association Offices or online at www.su.ualberta.ca. Detailed information available at 2-900 SUB.

IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS

- Please submit only single sided documents. We thank everyone who applies, however ONLY shortlisted applicants will be notified.
- Please be available for the noted interview time.
- Applicants must be undergraduate students and have paid full Students' Union fees.

STUDENTS' UNION BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS BOARD

- makes recommendations to Students' Council on academic issues
 - assists and advises the Vice-President Academic
 - deals with activities relating to student awareness of academic issues
 - administers Students' Union Awards
- For further information contact the VP Academic
Lisa McLaughlin at 492-4236.

Interviews scheduled for Tuesday, April 12, after 5:00 pm.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS BOARD

- creates and coordinates projects on campus concerning various issues of interest and concern
 - assists and advises the Vice-President External
- For further information contact the VP External
Alex Abboud at 492-4236.

Interviews scheduled for Tuesday, April 12, after 5:00 pm.

ADVOCACY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

- deals with activities relating to advocacy on the U of A campus
 - assists and advises the President
- NOTE - this committee is currently under review

Interviews scheduled for Thursday, April 14, starting at 5:00 pm.

PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE

- makes recommendations regarding SU entertainment events and programs
 - assists and advises the Vice-President Student Life
- For further information contact the VP Student Life
Duncan Taylor at 492-4236.

Interviews scheduled for Tuesday, April 12, after 5:00 pm.

STUDENT LIFE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

- monitors and provides direction to Anti-Freeze and WOW Planning Committee
 - assists and advises the Vice-President Student Life
- For further information contact the VP Student Life
Duncan Taylor at 492-4236.

Interviews scheduled for Tuesday, April 12, after 5:00 pm.

STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENTS

COMMITTEE ON OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY & ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

- requires 1 undergraduate student
- to recommend policy and serve as the focal point for consideration of policy issues to the University community

MEETS: At the call of the Chair

ONECARD ADVISORY COMMITTEE

- requires 1 undergraduate student to provide valuable feedback and guidance on all aspects of the current and future ONECard operations.

MEETS: At the call of the Chair

For further information on Standing Committees contact the VP Academic
Lisa McLaughlin at 492-4236.

Interviews scheduled for Tuesday, April 12, after 5:00 pm.

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA SENATE

- requires 4 undergraduate students appointed by the Students' Union
- the Senate's responsibility is to inquire into any matter that may enhance the image of the University and act as a link between the University and the public. The Senate may also authorize the conferring of Honorary Degrees.

MEETS: Four times yearly

For further information contact the VP External Alex Abboud at 492-4236

Interviews scheduled for Tuesday, April 12, after 5:00 pm.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE

- assists and advises the VP External
 - deals with activities relating to the general Edmonton community
- For further information contact the VP External Alex Abboud at 492-4236

Interviews scheduled for Friday, April 15, after 5:00 pm.

FACULTY-BASED INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY STEERING COMMITTEE

- requires 5 undergraduate students
- to provide input into the technology-related needs of students to help determine the services that Computing and Network Services (CNS) should support centrally

MEETS: Every 1-2 months for 2 hours

*Note: the committee will likely meet during the summer months

Interviews scheduled for Tuesday, April 12, after 5:00 pm.

The Real Real



In the **Mexican state of Quintana Roo** there exists, in the midst of the desert and ocean, a Mecca of debauchery, dedicated solely to taking in university-aged students North America-wide and transforming these mere drinkers into something much different, more complex, and more grizzled: **boozers. The name of this place is Cancun.**

Embarking upon this pilgrimage is the dream of many a university student, and has been a personal goal of mine since I was a sexually desperate first-year and I began to hear rumours of a steamy oasis in which morals and values took a back seat (in which they probably sixty-nined each other) to boozin' and bangin'. In years past, I've had several things holding me back; however, something special happened in 2005, just in time for my last year of undergraduate study. Some might call this luck, but I have another name for it: destiny.

What occurred over reading week was exactly what

you'd expect from our largely MTV-created image of spring break in Cancun in some respects, but quite far from it in others. If there was one thing that went exactly as expected, though, it was the boozing. What I could not foresee was the effect that this week of abuse would have, not only on my body, but on my soul.

Before I get into the nuts and bolts of the debauchery, I should mention one thing: the importance of the cast of characters. Although Cancun would be just about the best place to try, having fun is next to impossible unless there are good people to have it with. Thus, for the purposes

of creating a sort of moral datum line, I will describe, in brief, the crew with which I descended into Cancun.

Firstly, there is Juan, my roommate, a fifth-year mechanical engineering student whose El Salvadorian heritage (and accompanying Spanish-language skills) served not only as a facilitator of communication but a never-ending target for Mexican jokes. Then there is Chrissy, a third-year psychology student who has a dog that pisses himself all the time. Terri is a business student in her fourth year, and is basically a man sans penis; big things were expected of her on this trip. Brad is another fifth-year mechanical engineering student who, even before the trip, was a borderline alcoholic. Cara is a statistics major in the midst of a year off, and is really the only one of us who actually deserved a vacation. Jérémie is yet another fifth-year mechanical who was obsessed with going on this trip. If only for the reason that the ethnic chirping would be deflected from his French ass for but one week. Finally, there is me: one more fifth-year mechanical, a man-boy who was desperately hoping that his crippling lack of social skills and grotesque body hair wouldn't be too much of a barrier to getting his proverbial party on.

We were seven green Albertan kids, not knowing what to expect. Well, that's kind of a lie: we knew we were going to be getting off our asses for a week in hot weather. We just weren't too sure about the details. And details, as the old saying goes, are the spice of life. Or something.

Cancun

feature and photos by Josh Kjenner

In Mexico, we found you don't find pizza. Pizza finds you.

We hit the tarmac in Cancun at 1am Sunday morning. As I sniffed the warm humid air, I could swear that I smelled not only salt, but just the faintest hint of tacos. Fate was in the air, and we could barely contain our excitement.

Until, of course, we walked into the airport and had to wait in line for two excruciating, boozeless hours to clear customs. This, roughly three minutes into the trip, was the first of several less-than-drinkastic events that they tend to gloss over on the MTV specials. Actually, to be honest, the plastic-wrapped shit nugget that the airline termed a "meal" would technically be the first of these, but whatever—I'm not here to whine.

After customs was cleared and orientaters had oriented and a taxi was taken and check-in was done and the bags were put away, the gravity of the situation hit me. We were in fucking Mexico for reading week.

Unfortunately, it was about 4:30am at this point, and we were tired, hungry, boozeless, and a little bit confused. We decided to fix at least one of the above problems and locate some pizza. Sat.

In Mexico, we found that, like most products, you don't find pizza. Pizza finds you. In what seemed like divine intervention, roughly five minutes after departing our hotel, a Papa John's stenciled motorbike pulled up. Two hundred and eighty pesos later, we were the proud owners two of pies that, despite their staleness and doubtless containment of exhaust fumes, tasted just about as close to perfect as pizza could have at that moment.

With the purchasing of the pizza, we were exposed for the first time to the giant, swirling cloud of ambiguity that is the pricing of goods in Mexico, and the uber-aggressive manner in which most goods are hocked. We actually bartered with the guy who sold us pizza, which to this unworried Canadian was like trying to lowball a clerk at Home Depot or something.

Although we managed to bang our pizza-peddling friend down a bit, 280 pesos seemed a little high. So we decided to check the price of the pizza later when we walked past the Papa John's. The problem was, the pizza place had no prices. Anywhere. Between the super-motivated salesmanship of the motor-pizza and the completely non-existent pricing standards, I was beginning to feel like I was in a giant, Latino-sized International Stereo.

All of this, however, was forgotten when I lived at the ocean. I had never before swam in an ocean, and did so for the first time as the sanguine, cloud-tinged sun turned nighttime into a glorious Cancun morning around me. It was the only thing on the entire trip that I would call sublime. Well, that and the Mexican dressed up as a Leprechaun at Pat O'Briens.

A trip to Mexico, however, is not about sublimity or case studies of pricing schemes or even Leprechauns: it's about getting drunk. Which we started to do at about 1pm on Sunday, and more or less didn't stop for seven hazy days.

This being the case, I'm not going to explicitly state and detail every time we all got drunk, for a number of reasons: 99 per cent of all funny drunk shit is inevitably "had to be there"-type stuff. Everybody has someone that they

can say "Remember fucking Todd's house? Paperclips, anyone?" to and start busting a gut while everyone else looks at each other and wonders what the fuck is going on. Since it's in my best interests to make sure that you, reader, know what the fuck is going on—and it would probably save me some effort and typing to tell you about the times when we weren't mangled—I'm only going to relate drunken anecdotes when they have special relevance.

Or when they're really funny, as was the case on Sunday afternoon. An older man who turned out to be a famous motivational speaker happened to be at Margaritaville, where we were absorbing some free drinks, and was quite taken with Cara. A man used to getting what he wants, he asked Cara for a kiss. Cara complied, and was thanked with a mouth full of 65-year old tongue. And as if this wasn't enough, upon her hasty termination of the kiss, he ever so softly whispered into her ear that he wanted to "eat her pussy." Subtlety is an art that is completely lost in Mexico.

That night, I accomplished what may have been the most admirable partying feat of my career: I was thrown into Mexican jail (yep, I capitalized it). The significance of this is tremendous: getting thrown into Mexican jail is the partygoer's equivalent of winning the Art Ross Trophy (the Hart Trophy equivalent is waking up with a tattoo of a rapist smoking a joint on your back). Without going into too much detail, my trip to the *policia* cost me \$100US, which is probably the best money I've ever spent in my life. Never was this more apparent than when I walked out into the lobby after taking care of the bribe and saw my roommate Juan walking out as well—he had been thrown in the same night. It was very convenient; we shared a cab home.

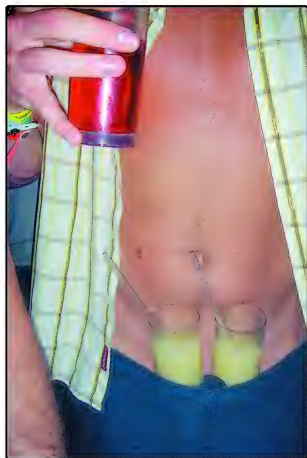
Sunday was probably the most ridiculous day of my life. And it was probably the best. I put aside everything I usually worry about; money, food, sleep and crabs all took a backseat to just having fun. For the entire day I was pretty much riding the HOLY-FUCK-I'M-IN-CANCUN-BOOZE-PANTIES-SLUTS-BOOZE-BOOZE-DRUGS-BOOZE high, and could not not have fun. Although it is vaguely depressing for a reason I can't really put my finger on, for me, the trip was all downhill from Sunday.

This descent started Monday morning. Another thing that is neglected by the cameras of MTV is the complete and utter shambles one's life is in for pretty much the entire duration of one's trip. On Monday I awoke unaware of the location of my money, sunglasses, wallet, and lip chap, which turned out to be scattered in three different locations across our two hotel rooms. Whether it be open bars, members of the opposite sex, or one's pants, it seems that in Cancun one is always looking for something.

The trip package that we bought turned out to be less than stellar (note: do your research), so another thing that we were always on the lookout for was food. Our search on Monday morning brought us to a place by the name of the Rainforest Café, which I mention only because it showcased, once again, the complete and utter disregard for subtlety in Cancun. The Rainforest Café wasn't just a restaurant; it was more of a zoo with food. There were animatronic apes, recorded and looped jungle sounds, and a simulated thunderstorm (complete with dimmed lights) every ten minutes or so. As Jérémie so aptly observed: "What an experience."

When you travel to Cancun, plan to have all of your conversation take care of before you sit down for a meal. Because, in that city of sin, every meal has one special ingredient: slamming techno beats. And if your meal isn't accompanied by 130bpm radness, it likely will be by the glorious frolicking of recorded chimp. As awesome as that sounds, it's actually really, really annoying.

The entire trip climaxed, in my opinion, on Monday night. We had ourselves a hell of a bar night, and then Juan, in a drunken, sleepy stupor, pissed all over our hotel room, which wasn't nearly as gross as it sounds. It was



This is what you do when double-fisting just isn't enough.

actually pretty funny. This is stuff that you just can't do in Canada, and makes trips like this all the more worthwhile.

By Tuesday, after two nights of gongshowy shitfacedness, there existed a posse-wide feeling of, as that dirty Frenchy Jérémie called it, *malaise*. This was the sharp valley after the sky-high peaks of the first two nights, and was the day where we transcended mere "partying" and moved into the realm of "life-altering bender."

That night, as we walked into the bar and I received my umpteenth goddamn open-bar wristband, I felt like I was punching a metaphorical timecard. Boozing that night was almost like a job. But being the good employee I am, I got in there, I rolled up my sleeves, and I got fuckin' drunk. That, my friends, is partying.

The beginnings of a routine were beginning to form by Wednesday. The typical Cancun day goes something like this:

- 1 Wake up and hate your life because your body is in shambles and, due to the humidity, it feels like you're sleeping in a big fucking bucket of soup.
- 2 Have a shower.
- 3 Try and find all the shit you lost when you got drunk the night before.
- 4 Go to the beach or pool and catch up with your posse on the previous night's events.
- 5 Start boozing.
- 6 Supper.
- 7 Purchase ambiguously priced alcohol. Continue boozing.
- 8 Nap or more boozing.
- 9 Boozing.
- 10 Change of boozing venue to bar.
- 11 Random stupid drunken shit (it always seems to happen after the bar). Boozing optional.
- 12 Secure post-bar food.
- 13 Bed.

It's a 13-step program to get off the wagon and stay off, and, if executed properly, can result in some excellent

the adventure continues on the next page



Chrissy, Terri, and Cara in various states of buckledness.

I was just walking around and was hit with a sudden, crushing realization: “Holy shit—I’m being a fucking loser!”



Buskers play for money on the bus.

boozing results. We stuck, more or less, to this formula for the duration of our trip, changing only minor things from day to day as our body and trip-mates allowed.

Thursday was one of these days that wasn't entirely routine, at least for me. It was the day that my body decided to fight back.

The performance of my digestive tract had been questionable all week, but it really decided to make itself heard on Thursday. After lingering in the constipation zone for a couple of days, my stool made a brief stop at pleasant on Wednesday and powered right on through to run-town on Thursday.

Thursday would also prove to be the day I got loser drunk. For those of you not familiar with the term, I'll define it: when you're really goddamn loaded, and you've drank yourself past the point where your idiosyncrasy and lack of respect for social conventions is a source of amuse-

ment and you're now just an annoying stupid asshole, you're no longer just drunk—you're loser drunk.

Although I can't say I was happy about this happening, I also can't say I was surprised, and I'm frankly pretty happy that I lasted until Thursday. To me, there was no shame in that. Everybody has to be "that guy" once in a while.

I was lucky enough to be able to do it on a boat (we were on a booze cruise) surrounded mostly by people I didn't know, which beats the pants off pulling this shit at my great aunt's birthday or something like that.

Friday was predictably a doozy given my condition the previous night, but at this point the "last day" effect started to set in. Everyone is familiar with the "last day" effect: where you party your balls off simply because it's your last day of something, whether it be school, the year, your period, or whatever.

I've seen this effect many times, but never so acutely as I did that Friday in Mexico. I've gone into some detail about the condition of my body, but haven't fully elaborated on the woes of my peers. Brad had mentally degenerated to the point that, when confronted with a language problem, he simply repeated himself with a Spanish accent, expecting this to clear up any questions that the listener had. Cara was nursing a couple of severely bruised elbows sustained in a fall from the bar at Coco Bongo. Chrissy had yakked about 84 times so far on the trip, and although he didn't say anything I could tell it was taking everything Juan had to keep from pissing all over everything around us.

In short, the crew was in rough shape. That, however, did not stop us from putting in one last solid booze fest, La Boom-style. It was that night that I realized how far I had come as a partygoer.

For the second night in a row, I drank myself to loser drunkenness. In my defense, this one kind of snuck up on me. The night before I had worked my tail off to get booze into my guts, but on Friday I was just walking around and was hit with a sudden, crushing realization: "Holy shit—I'm being a fucking loser!"

It was this self-awareness that pointed to the strides I had made in the world of boozin'. The biggest thing about being loser drunk is that you think you're being the coolest cat in the world when, in fact, you're being, well, a big loser. That night at La Boom, I realized what I had become, and instead of letting it continue, I grabbed myself by the scruff of my neck and threw myself into a bathroom stall.

As I sat in that bathroom stall and felt my sobriety

slowly but steadily rising, I reflected on the week that had just passed. I thought about the things I had seen, the things I had done, the things I had drank; and, most of all, I thought of the things that I had learned. And, ten to 70 minutes later when I walked out of that bathroom, merely blitzed as opposed to loser drunk, I couldn't help but do so with a bit of a strut—I had truly become a boozier.

G



Getting "loser drunk" on a boat cruise.



Jérémie passed out after a hard day of partying.

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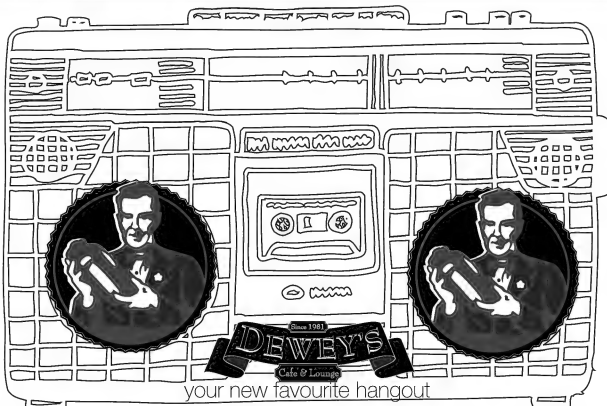
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Robot meets world, world likes Pixar better

Robots

Directed by Chris Wedge and Carlos Saldanha
Starring Ewan McGregor, Robin Williams,
Drew Carey, Halle Berry, Mel Brooks,
Greg Kinnear and Amanda Bynes
Opens Friday, 11 March

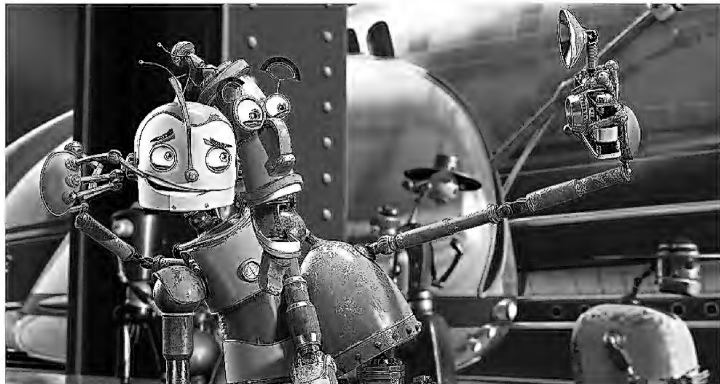
IRIS TSE
 Arts & Entertainment Writer

Poor Fox: Pixar has so many Oscars, they practically have to use the statuettes as doorstops around the office.

Dreamworks found a franchise in *Shrek* thanks to the public's perpetual fascination with fart jokes. But Fox? Fox has always been the poor man's Dreamworks, which is in turn a poor man's Pixar. Their last animated feature, *Ice Age*, with Ray Romano as the top-billed actor, featured a humble cast when compared to the likes of Dreamworks and Pixar voice stars like Mike Myers, Will Smith, Ellen DeGeneres, Billy Crystal, and the like. But with *Robots*, Fox wants to show that they're not going to be third place forever.

Like that guy down the street with the ridiculously large Hummer, Fox obviously tries to overcompensate for its diminutive stature through their ridiculous stunt-casting in *Robots*. It's like a celebrity poker game. We see *Shark Tale*'s Angelina Jolie and raise you a Halle Berry. We see *Shrek*'s Eddie Murphy and raise you a Robin Williams and Drew Carey. Hell, we'll even throw in Paul Giamatti and Jay Leno in unrecognizable cameo.

Robots follows the formulaic, kid-friendly storyline of boy meets world and boy learns life lesson. The boy, or more correctly, robot, in question is Rodney Copperbottom (voiced by Ewan McGregor minus the accent), who dreams of being an inventor working for Big Weld (Mel Brooks). But Big Weld's company is taken over by Ratchet (Greg Kinnear), a pin-striped, spiffy-looking robot still attached to the apron strings of his mother. Rodney then



embarks on a revolution of sorts to bring back Big Weld, as well as the much-needed spare parts that every robot needs. Throw in a requisite comedic sidekick (Robin Williams), friends and family of comedic sidekick (Drew Carey, Amanda Bynes), and a girl with a heart of gold (Halle Berry), and you've got every single cliché catering to the Nickelodeon demographic.

Though the cast brings instant name recognition to the movie, they don't add much more than that. Only Williams, who replicates his usual brash, exuberant comedic self to his character, is memorable. The rest manage to fit their voices to the traits of their respective characters: Brooks as the gravel-voiced eccentric millionaire, McGregor as the pragmatic Rodney, and Bynes as the shrill teenage girl. But you can't automatically associate their voices with their faces and

they sound no different than any other nameless voice actors.

Berry's voice-acting is by far the worst. Unlike better celebrity cartoon voices—for example, Ellen DeGeneres as Dory in *Finding Nemo*—there is nothing unique about Berry's inflection or the way she delivers her lines. Her generic female voice could have been easily replaced by someone cheaper and more (or less) desperate for work.

Casting aside, the animation is much slicker than *Ice Age*. The shiny brush-metal surface of the upgraded robots juxtaposes with the enamel-coated body parts of the older robots. Details such as a hint of rust and a speck of peeled paint make these robots even more realistic. In addition, the animators have given Robotcity an overwhelming cityscape full of gears, pulleys and tracks.

The public transportation there resembles both a hyperactive pinball machine and a hair-raising rollercoaster ride.

The writers also pepper the script with subtle puns and blatant references for both the kids and the accompanying parents. One scene featuring Britney Spears' "Hit Me Baby One More Time" choreography elicited laughs from the entire theatre. But the story still feels lacking. Perhaps it's trying too hard to live up to Pixar and Dreamworks. But like that unpopular kid from the AV club who tries too hard to impress the cool kids with movie references, funny lines become contrived and tiring after a while.

This is not a sloppy production, but Fox has room for improvement. Considering *Robots* looks so cool, you can't help ponder what upcoming Pixar and Dreamworks projects are going to be like.

SOCIAL INTERCOURSE

Silence! Hear the Children

St Joseph's College

Friday, 11 March at 7:30pm

If on your treks through CAB you haven't taken notice of the posters advertising this event, listen up. This Friday night, St Joseph's College Social Justice Club is hosting Silence! Hear the Children, a combination silent auction/coffee-house night in support of two Central American orphanages: one in Honduras, the other in Guatemala. The event is a great excuse for everyone to showcase their "do-gooder" side and make a personal contribution for a truly worthwhile cause.

Sarah Slean

with Jorane and Jeremy Fisher

Horowitz Theatre

Thursday, 10 March at 8pm

You've undoubtedly caught a glimpse of her oh-so-pretty face on posters around town and heard her single "Day One" on CJR. Now's your chance to see Sarah Slean live in an intimate Horowitz show. A unique singer-songwriter and talented visual artist, the rosy-cheeked Slean is currently in the middle of a tour which will take her all the way from prairie country to the easternmost corners of Canada. Tagging along is guitar-plucking musician Jeremy Fisher, an artist whose style is comparable to Slean's. This is a combination you won't want to miss.

ASIA SZKUDLAREK
 Travelling Businessman-lady

Take a look at what the tide washed in

Undertow

Directed by David Gordon Green

Starring Jamie Bell, Dermot Mulroney, Josh Lucas

and Devon Alan

Metro Cinema

10-12 March at 9pm

ELIZABETH VAIL
 Arts & Entertainment Writer

Undertow reeks; it stinks to high heaven. But I don't mean anything negative by that. *Undertow*, directed by David Gordon Green (*All the Real Girls*), creates such a convincing atmosphere of fear, testosterone, poverty and hope, that it fairly oozes off the screen like a thick miasma. I could almost smell the mud and sweat on Jamie "Billy Elliot" Bell's shirt, the blood on Josh Lucas' hands, the odour of crushed leaves and snapped twigs and rotten left on the ground after two brothers flee into their own dark fairy tale.

Chris (Bell) and his little brother Tim (Devon Alan) live with their father in the sticks, their home life a fragile, grimy thing. Chris deals with his emotional loneliness by chucking rocks at people's windows, Tim by deliberately eating paint and mud to make himself sick. They are forced to leave their ramshackle home after their perpetually grieving father (a brooding Dermot Mulroney, miles away from *The Wedding Date*) is murdered by their greedy convict uncle Deel (a slimy Josh Lucas, miles away from *Sweet Home Alabama*) over a hidden treasure of Mexican gold coins. Stealing the booty, the boys wander through the poverty-stricken underbelly of the American South, the looming menace of their murderous relative nipping at their heels. One part *Huckleberry Finn*, one part *Hansel and*



Greel, plus a healthy dose of suspense, what results is an engaging, well-told adventure tale for adults.

Jamie Bell, who wrangles his British accent into a convincing southern American one, bears the brunt of the acting responsibility on his wiry, emaciated shoulders, and he does not disappoint, contributing a childlike vulnerability ineffectively shielded by a shell of brittle teenage angst. Josh Lucas chews the scenery effectively, emerging every once in a while from his handlebar-moustache-twirling villainy to show some realistic desperation of a broken man with no other options. Devon Alan and Dermot Mulroney perform as admirably as their more limited roles allow, rounding out the impeccable cast.

David Gordon Green convincingly creates a world of rusted metal, rotting wood, and cluttered

garbage, laying out a minefield of hazards the two boys have to weather. This far from the cultural hubs of city life, the setting of this tale could rest comfortably anywhere from 1970 to the present day. However, once the boys escape their sheltered life, the grass becomes greener, the water cleaner, the sunlight brighter. They are not only departing from the hostile presence of their uncle, but also their dirty, smothering past. Even when on the run, there is a perpetual sense of their chances improving.

A powerful film, *Undertow* combines a multitude of elements: brotherly devotion, the curse of greed, isolation, hope, terror, revelation and uncertainty, into a thick, pungent stew of struggle and triumph. Simply labelling it a thriller is both an injustice and an inaccuracy. It is a superb example of atmospheric storytelling.



Primer transcends space, time and average human comprehension

Primer

Directed by Shane Carruth
Starring Shane Carruth
and David Sullivan
MetroCinema
10-12 March at 7pm

MICHAEL LAROQUE
Arts & Entertainment Writer

If nothing else, you have to give Primer credit for being original. It can be hard to follow, heady, over-technical and sometimes deliberately keeps the audience in the dark, but you can't say you've seen a movie quite like this before.

Aaron and Abe are two friends who work mundane day jobs as engineers as a means of funding their own company, Embina Devices. The company hasn't produced anything of value, but Aaron and Abe are constantly looking for the invention that will make them famous. Without knowing exactly what they have produced, they build a machine that counteracts the weight of objects by blocking their gravitational pull. The practical application of this device isn't clear, but soon enough the two discover an interesting side effect, one that makes keeping the machine for themselves much more desirable than any gain they could achieve from marketing it.

Soon enough, they find that the psychological effects of the machine—and the temptation to use it—are

too great to maintain. They return to the machine more often and each guy starts to use it without the other knowing. Pretty soon, the inherent problems and paradoxes that accompany their discovery become all too apparent, and Aaron and Abe are forced to deal with the mess.

As you can likely guess, *Primer* (winner of the Grand Jury Prize at the 2004 Sundance Film Festival) isn't a movie that you can give a simple synopsis of, but suffice it to say that any suggestion of what this movie is really about would, at the very least, make it less enjoyable to watch. In fact, the film deliberately plays off of the viewer's unawareness, creating the most powerful elements of the movie. The result is that you feel not like an audience member but rather a third character, equally baffled by the invention for the first 25 minutes as your two counterparts struggle to figure out what exactly they've created. This does create an awkward learning curve of sorts; when realization does dawn on the characters, you're forced to struggle through their physics jargon in an attempt to keep up, and given the lack of a rewind button it is likely that full comprehension of *Primer* won't come until the DVD.

Shane Carruth's deliberate choice to use film—as opposed to a money-saving and indie-favoured digital camera—might just be the winning feature of this movie. Film creates

a grainy, authentic feel and allows for interesting use of light. Through bright flashes and dim lows, Carruth accentuates not just location and environment, but the very emotion of the scene. In a film about ingenuity, Carruth proves to be an ingenious filmmaker, stretching his minimal budget (a rumoured \$7000) to create truly impressive production values. As the story goes, Carruth relied on family and friends for accommodations and sets, and unable to afford more film, did any reshoots on the leftover snippets from other reels, forcing him at times to re-film mere seconds of a desired scene. The finished product doesn't look like a big-budget feature, but it doesn't look like it was put together on tuition money, either.

Primer's main downfall might be that the audience is inevitably—barring those holding advanced degrees in math and physics—going to be a few steps behind the action, constantly trying to figure out what actually happened in the last scene. Sure, you don't want a movie that dumbs itself down to the point of absurdity, but a movie that flies over the heads of the audience is only marginally better. The fact remains, however, that *Primer*, despite its raggs-to-riches production, can survive on its script and cleverness alone. People will much rather see a movie that is too smart than one that is too dumb, and *Primer* is about as smart—and entertaining—as they come.



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Honesty key for folk-duo Madisen

Madisen

with The Fettes and Andy White & Allison Russell
Sidetrack Café
Thursday, 10 March at 8pm

JAMES CATTERALL
Arts & Entertainment Writer

The best things in life seem to happen without any planning. When Matt Clarke heard Leila Harrison singing, both of them had other agendas.

Clarke had just graduated from the theatre school and Harrison was busy with acting projects of her own; neither had any intention of making a career together in music.

But the two went against their plans. Now, they make up folk-rock duo Madisen. And, as Clarke explains, he wouldn't have been making music if Harrison—with whom he says he shares a remarkable chemistry—hadn't come along.

"I started writing songs on my own and started playing in coffee shops and wherever people would let me play," he says. "We started playing together and we just jumped it to the next level."

Clarke isn't just speaking professionally; the two share a romantic



relationship offstage that they try to keep separate from their performance. Though it may influence their lyrics, they insist that honesty is key when it comes to music.

"[Our relationship] shouldn't be the focus. It would be easy to make that the focus and sort of ride on that."

"People get bored from that kind of stuff too. I mean, the music is what's going to keep people coming back," adds Harrison.

If the cheery optimism of Harrison's vocals is any indication, it would seem that Madisen's future is bright. Their five-song EP, *Songs from the Seventh Floor*, is a testament to happiness, produced by Jared Kemper (who previously worked with Tegan and Sara). Though they encountered a lot of extra expenses and difficulty putting together the EP, Clarke insists that "if

we don't look from outside the box or keep some kind of an objective viewpoint or positive view we'd lose our minds."

Honesty, again, is key, says Harrison. "You're working with people who are very experienced and it's very easy to say whatever you think, and there's a danger of losing your own vision of what you want, but I think we did a good job with the EP of staying true to our own sound."

And that sense of honesty even comes through in their record's themes. "I think the theme of the record is this is what we're experiencing; this is our journey," says Harrison. "An honest performance: that's what we strive for every time, and we strive to enjoy ourselves up there."

HOUSE DOCTORS Saturday, March 5
THE SEAMS Saturday, March 12
DYNAROUGH Saturday, March 19
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Po' Girl po' no mo'

Trio of one-time teenaged runaways enjoys critical acclaim, but still digs the fringes of society

Po'Girl

St Basil's Cultural Centre
10819 71 Avenue
Friday, 11 March at 7pm

LENORE TURNER

Arts & Entertainment Writer

Imagine growing up in such a noxious household that becoming a fifteen-year-old runaway was a desirable option. Would the lack of happy childhood memories stunt creative growth? Or could the runaway lifestyle actually lead to original artistic meanderings?

Well, if you ask Trish Klein of the all-female band Po' Girl, the runaway experience was one of the factors that brought the group together. "All of the band members left home at around the same age, and were all living in people's basements," says Klein. "I've always lived on the fringes of society."

And what better place than the "fringes of society," where one couch-surfs weekly for survival, for diverse musical genres—ranging from jazz to bluegrass to rap—to be so liberally blended?

"I guess we have varied musical taste, and the songs reflect that," says Klein. "We just don't see genres as rigid things." While the group's old-time sound is often hard to categorize, Po' Girl was originally labelled a "protest band." One of their first gigs was at a bus-strike rally, and thereafter they played many similar gatherings.

"Allison [Russell, the group's lead vocalist] has a lot of activist friends," Klein says. "She's worked a lot with homeless people and is in touch with a lot of more progressive organizations."

I'd say we have a lot of anarchist/socialist values—we're in favour of being human-centred instead of being mercenary."

Klein may not otherwise be known for any activist leanings, but she is

famous for being a founding member of alt-country queens the Be Good Tanyas. And the foundation of fans the Tanyas laid helped Po' Girl to develop quickly, the group already a critical favourite. But Po' Girl's success isn't taking Klein away from the Tanyas; both projects remain close to her.

"Right now I'm working about 50-50 with The Be Good Tanyas and Po'Girl," says Klein. "With both groups we're putting together new albums. [Po' Girl's] will be recorded in the fall."

"I'd say we have a lot of anarchist/socialist values—we're in favour of being human-centred instead of being mercenary."

TRISH KLEIN, PO' GIRL

Klein originally opened her monogamous musical relationship with the Tanyas when member Frazier Ford first entered motherhood. With the group on a short maternity leave, Klein was looking for other projects and turned her eyes to long-time friend and sultry vocalist Allison Russell of the former Vancouver Celtic band Fear of Drinking. The two have been performing their multi-instrumental back-porch blend with fiddler Diana Davies for the past three years.

"I feel most comfortable playing the guitar," Klein says. "But I also play the banjo, mandolin, harmonica, and I'm learning the viola. I've been learning the viola for the past three years, but I still can't play on stage. My friends say I'm great, but I keep saying I'm not ready yet!" she laughs.

No worries, though. Come Friday, Po' Girl will be more than ready to hit the stage.

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Gonna make you cold sweat

Wallace Shawn's *The Fever*, a play that asks the audience to question the status quo, hopes to make audiences sick—with themselves

The Fever

Directed by Amy Defelice
Varscona Theatre
Starring John Sproule
Opens Thursday, 10 March at 8pm

LEAH ANDERSON
Arts & Entertainment Writer

A fever is only a symptom of an underlying sickness that threatens the body. It makes sense, then, that *The Fever* centres on one man, but moves beyond the individual to reveal the greater problems in the world.

"It seems like world events—not just 11 September and invading Iraq—but the North American relationship to what's going on in the Third World has made this play be produced a lot more lately... It's one of those plays you kind of wish wasn't relevant anymore, and it just stays relevant."

AMY DEFELICE,
DIRECTOR, *THE FEVER*

The play, written in 1990 by Wallace Shawn, focuses on an unnamed man (played by John Sproule) who, while suffering from illness, is forced to examine his views on the world.

"There is something about having the fever that makes him have a

new perspective," says director Amy Defelice. "He certainly never could have examined these questions if he'd been healthy. It would have been easy to just not think about [how the world works]."

As his illness forces him to struggle with his conscience, both he and the audience are forced to ask, "Am I a terrible person for living the way that I do?" While we take our many luxuries for granted, Defelice says the play reminds us that we have the opportunity to make better choices: our mindless consumption can support child labour or union wages, individual suffering or freedom.

Understanding how our own actions are partially responsible for the evil in the world is not a pleasant topic to dwell upon for any length of time, something Defelice recognizes.

"It's one of those dilemmas where you either do deal with it and it drives you mad, or you choose not to deal with it and the soul dies."

And Defelice figures this aspect of the play

makes it relevant.

"It seems like world events—not just 11 September and invading Iraq—but the North American relationship to what's going on in the Third World has made this play be produced a lot more lately," she says.

"It's one of those plays you kind of wish wasn't relevant anymore, and it just stays relevant."

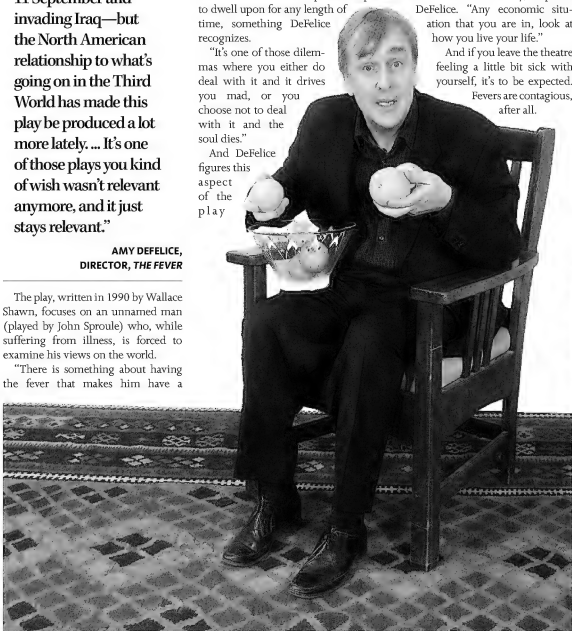
And Defelice imagines it will remain relevant until we take up the charge of the play and examine our lives.

While some have labelled the piece as full of "liberal guilt," the play calls to every person—not just the idle wealthy—to question the status quo.

"It doesn't matter that this particular character has a lot of money," explains Defelice. "Any economic situation that you are in, look at how you live your life."

And if you leave the theatre feeling a little bit sick with yourself, it's to be expected.

Fever is contagious, after all.



Halifax
A Writer's Reference
Drive-Thru Records
www.halifaxrock.com

WHITNEY TUSHINGHAM
Arts & Entertainment Writer

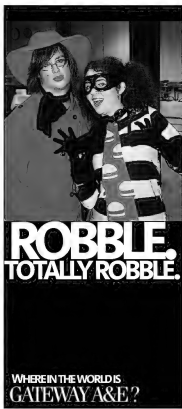
So the boys from Alkaline Trio and My Chemical Romance decide to get in a time machine and go back to the days when they were about 16 years old and still noodling around, trying to define their sound.

After having accomplished this feat, they then decide to try genetics, and

spawn five little baby boys, who, in November of 2003, became Halifax. Having inherited some immature, whiny vocal tendencies from My Chemical Romance and uninspiring, boring guitars from Alkaline Trio, Halifax doesn't really bring a whole lot to the "cool" table—unless you count the fact that they wear vintage shirts, have some facial piercings and drink beer onstage, which we all know is the bedrock of a fabulous and original stage persona.

The band's EP, *A Writer's Reference*, is sparse and features no lyrics, names or any other identifiable information, save a grainy black-and-white photo and an insert for merch from Drive-Thru Records.

Apparently if you really want to get to know the band you have to sit through the lame camcorder-style interview that's gratis with the CD. On it, you can discover the best thing about the band: Halifax isn't from the Maritimes, or even Canada. Phew.



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National stardom: prêt-à-Kalan Porter

Kalan Porter

Shaw Conference Centre
Saturday, 12 March at 7:30pm

AMANDA ASH
Arts & Entertainment Writer

For those of us who watch *Canadian Idol* for the sole purpose of mocking the contestants, the show has provided us with the ability to judge who will never make it as a star.

But can we judge exactly who would make it as a Canadian Idol?

Chatting with the program's most recent winner Kalan Porter, it's clear that the young musician's charisma is one of the criteria. Despite hours of travelling and numerous sold-out shows across the country, Porter's energy and charm still manage to glimmer through in his personal thoughts on what it means to be a Canadian idol.

"An idol is someone you look up to, and in this case, a representative of Canada," Porter explains proudly. To him, an idol is an everyday down-to-earth person like him.

"I'm a very normal, average guy, and maybe that's what people look for [in a Canadian Idol]."

Just as Porter may be an idol to some aspiring musicians, he also has his own role models—and they're not famous rock stars like Led Zeppelin or the Rolling Stones. Instead, his idols are everyday people: his friends and family.

"I started playing piano and violin when I was about six, and my mom was always dragging me to lessons," Porter reminisces. "I lived on a ranch, so I obviously wanted to be outside playing."

Not only did his mom encourage

him to pursue music, but his music teacher also opened up a world of possibilities for Porter.

"Growing up, I had a violin teacher who really taught me the love of music and really inspired me. And then when I was about nine or ten, music started becoming my own thing."

Porter's early musical influence and enthusiasm for performing soon led him to develop his own style. He listened to a lot of rock music, but always fell back on his classical roots—something that continues to keep him in touch with his unique musical identity.

"Classical music has really inspired me and helped me out through the whole thing, whether it is the discipline or theory."

Porter's passionate interest in both classical and rock music is what makes his style so interesting.

"I try to incorporate classical music into [my style]. On my record, I was able to incorporate some classical music and add some distortion in order to give it a rock edge," Porter explains.

"In the shows that I am doing, I am doing stuff from the record and some new stuff. I am playing a lot of rock violin and electric violin. I hope there is going to be something for everyone who comes out."

Porter's individuality has enabled him to succeed. After being propelled even further into stardom by his hit single "Awake in a Dream," Porter is now living his dream and loving it.

"Canadian Idol was a jump-start, a foot in the door. It's pretty cool to have the opportunity to play music, and I have wanted a career in music for a very long time," he says excitedly. "It's a great feeling to see the crowd out there supporting you. It's definitely a

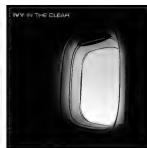


great feeling."

And in Idol fashion, Porter—ever thankful to have had the chance to be Canadian Idol—encourages budding musicians to follow their dreams, no matter how hard it may seem.

"It takes a lot of hard work and talent. I would say, 'Go for it' if you

are interested in playing music. Take the opportunities that are out there and try to make the best of them. Whatever happens in five or ten years, I have to be thankful that I was given the opportunity. There are so many artists and musicians out there that never get the chance."



h/y
In the Clear
Nettwerk
www.thebandy.com

TYSON KARAN
Arts & Entertainment Writer

h/y's climbed their way up from the dirty streets of New York.

And with their fourth full-length album, *In the Clear*, the dream-pop trio is releasing their delicate works of ambient pop into the atmosphere, like dandelion seeds floating in the breeze.

Parisian Dominique Durand's dreamy vocals melt into each song, especially on the groove-tastic "I've Got You Memorized" where she coyly sings, "Don't push your luck / it's all used up."

With her husband Andy Chase and Fountains of Wayne's Adam Schlesinger playing the instruments, h/y's latest album seems like a mix tape filled with Air and wrapped in The Cardigans.

In *The Clear*'s not the most original collection of French/ambient/dreamy pop out there, but it's still warm and comforting, like falling asleep after chugging cherry cough syrup.

again to the first track, "Keep it Tight."

Lee's melodically approachable vocals had me wanting to sing along long before I learned the lyrics.

His songs are so soothing that, if he promised to sing, he would be a welcome third wheel on any date.

Lee's a more soulful John Mayer—inspired by the likes of soul singers Stevie Wonder and Bill Withers and folk musicians John Prine and Dave Van Ronk and occasionally backed up by Wurliator organ.

No two songs on this album sound alike; the only unifying element is Lee's voice. He shows that he can sing many types of songs, from the blues-like "Seen it All Before," to the melancholic "Soul Suckers," the upbeat "Give it Up" and the down-home "Bottom of the Barrel."

If you're looking for a calm, feel-good album to surprise and delight you, then Amos Lee is what you're looking for.



Amos Lee
Amos Lee
Blue Note Records
www.amoslee.com

ALEXANDER WITT
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Never having heard a peep out of Amos Lee before, I didn't even get to the second song on his eponymous record before I knew I had to listen

as well as to those of the wetter variety, as the closing track, also entitled "Waves," seamlessly implies.

"Everything Comes Around" and "Sunrise," the catchy and immediately likeable opening tracks, set a mature and promising tone for the rest of the album. However, this sophistication is quickly abated by the poppy, bubble-gum sounds of songs like "Careless Love" and "Don't Let It Break Your Heart."

Respectability is restored on the strength of tracks such as the sublimely melodious and laid-back "Coming Alive," as well as "Headstrong," and the aforementioned closing title track, all reminding listeners of like-minded cool cats such as Sam Roberts.

By the end of the album, then, one is faced with the following dilemma: Are The Devins really a group of subtle and understated artists, or are they still at least partially stuck in the vapour and plastic-y recesses of Pop-topia? Although they do seem to phone it in on a few numbers, it nevertheless becomes apparent after a few spins that these guys do indeed have the potential to fall under the former category.

THE DEVILS WAVES



The Devils
Waves
Nettwerk
www.thedevils.com

ADAM GILMONT
Arts & Entertainment Writer

From Irish brothers Collin and Peter Devlin comes the supposedly "underground" duo's fourth and latest album, the tastefully entitled *Waves*.

This moniker alludes to both the cool, refreshing sound waves emanating from this album,

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POST SECONDARY EDUCATION & GOVERNMENT GOVERNMENT TAKING ACTION ON POST SECONDARY EDUCATION?

**You've gotta be kidding me right...
GUESS AGAIN!**

Premier Klein announced in early February that Alberta's PSE system would receive massive investment over the coming year. For once, he followed through. **First, the Government promised to pay for your tuition increase next year, effectively resulting in a one-year tuition 'freeze'.** Furthermore, the Government will introduce a new tuition policy for September 2006. Your Students' Union will make sure your views are heard during the formulation of this policy.

Last week, the Government tabled Bill 1 – the Access to the Future Act. Bill 1 contains several key points:

1. Minimum entrance requirements and enrollment target will be established by the the Minister of Advanced Education,
2. The Access to Future Fund is established to support 'innovation and excellence' that will improve the quality, affordability and accessibility of PSE
3. A desire to attract and retain outstanding faculty and staff, while recognizing the importance of teaching excellence
4. Promoting the creation of bursary and scholarship programs in collaboration with the private sector
5. The creation a \$3 BILLION endowment from future surpluses at the discretion of the Minister of Finance.

Interest from this endowment will fund PSE initiatives.

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How does this endowment help us NOW where the help is most needed?

Will we be expected to continue sacrificing for the next generation?

Your SU will continue to advocate for your needs today as well as the needs of future generations.

Federally... Nothing.

Since PSE was not even mentioned in the budget, despite the Prime Minister's promises during his election campaign, the future of our country is obviously not one of this government's priorities.

Check it Out!

We have updated our website extensively in the last month. Feel free to check it out and get informed about the issues affecting you. www.universitiesmatter.com.

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sports@gateway.ualberta.ca • Thursday, 10 March, 2005

Hockey Pandas go for fourth-straight gold

JAKE TROUGHTON
Sports Writer

It's hard to imagine that the Pandas won't come home from this weekend's CIS women's hockey championship in Montréal with their fourth consecutive title. After all, most of them don't seem to know how to do anything but win gold.

Excluding eight first-year Pandas, 13 of 17 players on the team's roster have won a national title in every year with the team thus far, while the other four have won it three out of four years. Toss in a winning streak against CIS competition that currently sits at 103 games, and one might be forgiven for assuming that the Pandas will come out on top this weekend.

All winning streaks eventually come to an end, though—for proof of that you need only look at the Pandas' rugby counterparts, who earlier this year failed to win a national title for the first time in their six-year existence. The Pandas remember that previous national tournaments have generally provided by far the toughest of those 103 games, and while they know they're entering the weekend as heavy favourites, they admitted to a certain degree of nervousness.

"I feel like there's a lot more pressure on us this year," said forward Taryn Field, who's among the players who've won national gold in every season as a Panda and is one of eight Pandas in her final year of eligibility. "Maybe it's because so many of us are moving on and want to finish at the very top. The thought of losing my last year in CIS isn't one I sit well with. I've never lost a game as a Panda, and I don't plan on doing it now."

Pandas head coach Howie Draper acknowledged that pressure, but argued that with the level of championship experience his players have, they should have no problem overcoming it.

"We always have the expectation that we're going to win," he said. "What it all depends on is whether or not we're going to be prepared on the day that it matters. With all the girls who are returning, who have done it already, I like being in that situation. They're all experienced; they've played in tough games."

Aside from expecting the competition to be tougher than they've seen so far this season, the Pandas don't know much about the teams they'll be facing this weekend. They're in a pool with the host McGill Martlets, who are seeded fifth, and the Atlantic University Sport champion St. Francis Xavier X-Women, the fourth seed, who



BEST IN THE WEST Pandas head coach Howie Draper had a premonition that his team and the Manitoba Bisons will meet again in the CIS final. FILE PHOTO: LAMNIE FONG

they'll face at 5pm MST today to open the tournament. AUS teams have often proven easy fodder for the Pandas at previous championships, but both Field and Draper said they believe St. FX is deserving of their championship berth this year.

"It's been fairly lopsided [against AUS teams], but this year it'll be different," said Field. "I think the best six teams in CIS women's hockey will be there, so that'll be good."

McGill, who won bronze last year after losing to Alberta in the round robin and lost Canadian national-team goaltender Kim St. Pierre—arguably the best women's goaltender in the world—after last season, will face the loser of tonight's game tomorrow at 5:15pm, and the winner Saturday at 5pm. The top finisher in the three-

team pool will then face the leader of the other pool in Sunday's gold-medal game.

That pool includes the Quebec champion and third-seeded Concordia Stingers and the second-seeded Ontario champion Wilfrid Laurier Golden Hawks, who are the two teams most observers give the best shot of upsetting the Pandas. But Draper suggested that the sixth-seeded Canada West silver-medallist Manitoba Bisons, who lost two close games to Alberta in the conference final, may be the team that finishes atop the pool.

"They're playing with so much confidence, their attention to detail defensively is outstanding, and they've got some girls who can take advantage of mistakes that their opponents

make," Draper said. "I've got a little bit of a premonition; should we make it to the final, I have a funny feeling I'll be seeing them."

Manitoba has already done something that most teams haven't in recent times: taken a lead against the Pandas. That will likely give the Bisons a confidence boost heading into this weekend, but according to Field, it also served as good preparation for the Pandas.

"It was good for us to be in close games, good for us to be down a goal and be put in pressure situations, because that's going to happen at nationals," said Field. "Teams usually push their game beyond themselves when they play against us; we're the three-time defending champions, and everyone's going to be gunning for us."

Track teams headed to Winnipeg for CIS championships

Sixth-ranked Bears and eighth-ranked Pandas are confident, but administrative error will keep Bears runner Robbie Nissen from competing

PAUL OWEN
Sports Writer

Coming off second- and fourth-place showings respectively at the Canada West championships in Regina, the Golden Bears and Pandas track teams need to renew their focus before heading a stone's throw—or maybe a javelin's—farther down the highway to Winnipeg for the CIS nationals.

"At Canada West, we kind of got caught looking at the rankings and placing ourselves higher than the effort we put out," admitted head coach Georgette Reed. "For CIS, it's more about buckling down and everybody going out there for personal-best performances, and if everyone does what they're capable of, we'll have some amazing performances with the guys near the podium and the women approaching the sixth they got last year."

Disappointment at the conference finals aside, the track team is still learning under Reed in her second year as head coach, a fact she acknowledged.

"This is the be-all, end-all for the indoor season, and we want to put the best foot forward and show some heart and integrity, which we lacked at Canada West."

GEORGETTE REED,
BEARS AND PANDAS TRACK HEAD COACH

"It's a learning year—it's the kind of year we could end up anywhere from the top half to the bottom half depending on the kind of effort we put out," she said. "I think [the athletes] still have yet to show what they're made of, and this is the perfect opportunity to do that. I think some people will be looking to make amends for the lack of performance at Canada West."

It all keeps coming back to effort, which Reed was clearly disappointed with at their last meet. "We want to put it back together, be more

disciplined and focus on why we're there," she said. "This is the be-all, end-all for the indoor season, and we want to put the best foot forward and show some heart and integrity, which we lacked at Canada West."

The Bears are going to have to do that without cross-country all-Canadian Robbie Nissen, who—thanks to an administrative error that left an eligibility form unfilled—was unable to compete in Regina and therefore cannot go to Winnipeg.

"It was mainly an administration error, but I'm not bitter about it," said Nissen, who is set to graduate this spring and is unsure if he will return for a graduate degree. "It's my last year and it did suck not to run, but it was just a fluke error, and the program has made such great strides and done so much for me and I'm very thankful for that. I wouldn't say this is representative of the state of the program at all."

"Robbie's ready to run," added Reed. "He's been improving meet after meet and had such a wonderful cross-country season and it's unfortunate that things happened the way they did. We all felt horrible on the bus to Regina when we found out."

While Nissen isn't running, the other veterans are expected by Reed to set the tone for the weekend.



GOIN' TO WINNIPEG CIS nationals start today. FILE PHOTO: JAMES LEUNG

"I want to see how my seniors are going to compete. I'd like to see some raw heart from them and see my rookies come up with some best performances in their first time at the big show," she said. "Hopefully that will spur on the rest of the team."

Bears hungry for fifth-straight conference crown

ANDREW RENFREE
Sports Writer

One of the advantages of hosting a party is that you're guaranteed to be on the guest list. The Bears hockey team is two weeks away from hosting the biggest CIS hockey event of the season, the Telus University Cup running 24-28 March, and have known all season that they would find themselves in the hunt for CIS gold.

A host might typically spend the time leading up to a bash wondering if enough napkins and cocktail weenies were purchased, but instead the Bears will spend this weekend battling the second-ranked Saskatchewan Huskies, who have also shored up a national berth, in the Canada West championship. Despite the lack of playoff implications, this weekend's best-of-three series should be anything but lacklustre.

The last time these prairie rivals met, on 15 January, Saskatchewan handed the Bears their first regular-season home loss in over four years by a score of 5-2. It also marked the first time in 14 games that the Huskies were able to best the Bears on the score sheet. Since that game, though, the Bears have gone on an impressive 9-1-0 run, while the Huskies have registered a 7-2-1 record.

Bears head coach Rob Daum was quick to point out that this weekend's games will be hard-fought battles that should set the tone for the University Cup.

"It's not meaningless, and both teams are going to play hard," said Daum. "There's not a lot at stake, but when we play them in September, when there's absolutely nothing at

stake, the games are intense, so I don't think it will be any different [this weekend]."

Perhaps the biggest motivation for the Bears will be adding to the U of A tradition of winning the Canada West championship. Last year, the Bears swept the Huskies in the conference final, marking the 43rd time Alberta has been the best in the West. In addition, Alberta has won the last four Canada West titles and would love to add a fifth this weekend. Daum also mentioned that it is important for his team to continue the momentum of the six-game win streak they are currently riding.

"You always want to be a champion whenever you get that chance," Daum said. "The most important thing is to make sure we're playing well this weekend, because it's the last chance we'll get to play before we go into the national tournament, and obviously you want to play well every game from here on in."

The Bears and Huskies have been ranked first and second in the country, respectively, for most of the season, and Daum promised that this weekend's matches would produce some of the best CIS hockey of the season.

"You're not going to see better hockey anywhere than what you'll see this weekend, regardless of the fact that you can argue that the games don't mean anything," he said. "But you would never know that if you come and watch the games; I'll guarantee you that."

The puck will drop for the first two games of the series tomorrow and Saturday nights at 7:30pm at Clare Drake Arena. If necessary, game three will be played Sunday at 7pm.



EVENS ON THE PRIZE The Bears have a guaranteed berth at nationals, but still want to win another Canada West banner. FILE PHOTO: JEFFREY GREENIAUS

BEARS WIN AWARDS

Canada West's major player awards were announced yesterday, and four Golden Bears were among the honourees.

Goaltenders Dustin Schwartz and BJ Bosma shared the Adam Koyca Memorial Trophy for combining to have the best goals-against average (2.11) in the conference. Schwartz is the second player to win the award in all five years

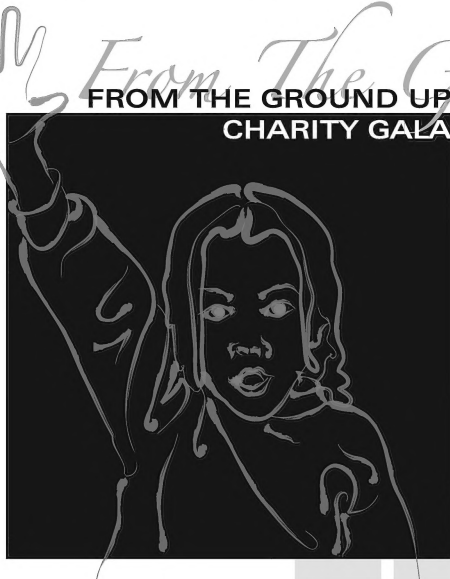
of eligibility; last year, he and then-teammate Clayton Pool shared the award to give Pool his fifth win.

For the fourth year in a row, a Bears defenseman—captain Gavin McLeod this year—has won the Randy Gregg Award recognizing excellence in athletics, academics and citizenship. Current Bear Jeff Zorn won the award last year,

while now-graduated captain Blair St Martin won it the two years before that. Defenseman Perry Johnson rounded out the Alberta winners, claiming the UBC Hockey Alumni Trophy for sportsmanship and ability.

Forward Paul Deniset of the Manitoba Bisons was named the conference's most valuable player.

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The Students' Union of the University of Alberta wishes to extend its deepest condolences to the families and friends of the RCMP officers killed on Thursday, March 3, 2005.

May they rest in peace.



THE GATEWAY IS HIRING!

LINE EDITORS

The Gateway is accepting applications for the following line editor positions* for the 2005/2006 publishing year:

MANAGING EDITOR

SENIOR NEWS EDITOR

DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

OPINION EDITOR

SPORTS EDITOR

ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

PHOTO EDITOR

DESIGN & PRODUCTION EDITOR

All terms run from 1 May 2005 to 30 April 2006. The full-time paid portion of the job runs from 24 August to the end of April, except Managing Editor who is expected to work full-time from 1 May. Six issues of the Gateway will be produced over the summer months. All line editors will be expected to train on at least two of the six summer issues (unless granted leave by the hiring committee) for an honorarium of \$100/issue. In their full-time capacities, the salaries for each position are as follows: Managing and Senior News will receive \$1500 per month; all other line editors will receive \$1185** per month. Please note that candidates may apply for no more than two (2) positions, except by special dispensation of the Line Editor Selection Committee. Applicants should submit a covering letter, resumé and portfolio to **Gateway Business Manager (Don Iveson, biz@gatewayualberta.ca, 492-6669) by noon on Friday 11 March 2005**. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted for an interview.

* Complete job descriptions (subject to change) are available at www.gatewayualberta.ca/biz/

** Pay will be adjusted for CPI over the summer and may increase.

THE GATEWAY



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Single-owner NHL could save hockey



ROSS PRUSAKOWSKI

Sports Commentator

In a season without a season, there have been many odd dealings in the NHL. However, when someone drops by the office and offers you \$3 billion for a product that doesn't really exist anymore, things have truly taken a turn for the bizarre.

But that's what happened at the National Hockey League Board of Governors meeting last week when a few anxious businessmen representing Boston-based Bain Capital Partners LLC and Game Plan LLC, with the equivalent of Luxembourg's GDP just laying around, placed an offer on the table to buy the league and every team in it.

Now, while there are many things of value that one could buy with \$3 billion—like an eternity of peanut-butter hand jobs—buying a dormant hockey league with fringe-sport status in the US isn't one of them. If there was ever a venture that warranted an extended stint at the funny farm, trying to buy the whole NHL should rank right up there with being leader

of the Communist Party of Alberta or Students' Union president.

However, as insane as it seems, the idea has a lot of merit and could solve many of the problems that are currently destroying the NHL. At the very least, a new model for the league could provide "cost certainty" and get high-quality professional hockey back on the ice across North America.

The concept of having the league own and run every team has been tried—and has failed—repeatedly across the continent (a notable recent example is the XFL). However, these attempts were mostly by fringe leagues or sports and lacked the considerable resources necessary to make it work. With deep pockets and dedication to building the sport, the new NHL could thrive and be sustainable in all of its current markets, because revenue would be spread across all teams to ensure the overall product can survive. This is how Major League Soccer, one of the few successful users of this model, has managed to survive, despite a lukewarm attitude towards soccer in the US.

Having a single pocket that all the money comes into and out of would have an even bigger benefit, one that would unite and bring glue to fans in every small market: competitive parity. Having the most competitive

league possible, where all teams have a chance to win every year, would be the best way to draw fans and their pocketbooks to the game.

By keeping the budget for all the teams roughly the same, a single owner could impose a de facto salary cap on the league. This would mean that instead of leaving small market teams high and dry at the end of a contract to follow the call of the almighty dollar, star players will be more likely to stay with one team for the whole of their career.

While this may bring joy to fans in Canada, the best news for all fans is that this ownership model would result in a linkage between salaries and league revenues outside the bounds of a collective bargaining agreement. Players may not like it, but they will finally be getting paid their fair value—a value that is accepted across the league and by fans as reasonable.

While the proposal has been rejected by the NHL's owners, a slight chance remains that the groups involved could up the ante and throw even more money at the league, meaning that even more bizarre turns could be in store for the league and its jilted fans. Even the outlandish idea that by fall the NHL could be back on its feet, entertaining millions in Canada and dozens in the US, is not out of the picture.

SPORTS SHORTS

Men's Hockey

After losing their respective semifinal series last week, the tenth-ranked Calgary Dinosaurs and ninth-ranked Manitoba Bisons will meet in a wildcard series this weekend in Winnipeg to determine which team will claim the third and final Canada West berth in the national championships, which will be held 24–28 March at Clare Drake Arena and Royal Place. The first two games of the best-of-three series will be played tomorrow and Saturday nights, with game three, if necessary, happening Sunday afternoon.

Last night, the Moncton Aigles Bleus beat the Acadia Axemen 2–1 to claim a 2–1 lead in the Atlantic University Sport final as the two teams battle for the sole AUS berth at nationals. Game four will be played Saturday night, and game five, if necessary, on Tuesday.

In Ontario University Athletics, the semifinals are underway, with the winners of each best-of-three series earning a nationals berth. Last night the McGill Redmen beat the UQTR Patriotes 6–3 in game one of their series, with games two and three scheduled for tonight and Sunday. The Western Mustangs also beat the Lakehead Thunderbolts 5–4 last night to take a 1–0 series lead. Games two and three will be played Saturday and Sunday.

Women's Basketball

The CIS basketball championship will get underway tomorrow at the University of Winnipeg with the quarter-final round. Those matches will feature the Regina Cougars versus the Laval Rouge et Or, the Ottawa Gee-Gees against the top-ranked and unbeaten Simon Fraser Clan, the Guelph Gryphons facing the host Winnipeg Wesmen, and the Memorial Sea-Hawks squaring off against the Victoria Vikes. The four winners will advance to the semifinals on Saturday. Sunday's final will be broadcast live on TSN at 6:30pm MST. The four Canada West representatives will have history on their side: the conference has won every championship since 1991.

gateway literary contest

Have you always wanted to see your ramblings published on newsprint? Eleven thousand pieces of newsprint? Well, friends, you're in luck—the Gateway has a circulation of 11 000, is totally printed on newsprint, and wants to publish your writing.

This contest is open to any U of A student who can string a sentence together, and who isn't currently a Gateway volunteer. Winners will have their writing published, and we'll even throw in some fantastic prizes.

Entries will be judged on creativity and style. Submissions must be original, cannot have been published previously, and will not be considered if they are hateful in nature. Submit your entries to managing@gatewayualberta.ca or bring them to 3-04 SUB by 18 March, 2005. Contestants may only enter one per category. Please include your name, program and year, student identification number, and e-mail address, and submit hard copies of all photos (this includes negatives and printed versions to accompany digital submissions). Unfortunately, entries will not be returned.

categories:

- 1 Short Fiction (under 1500 words)
- 2 Really Short Fiction (under 100 words)
- 3 Poetry
- 4 Photography

*Deadline extended: 18 March, 2005

THE GATEWAY

HALEY'S COMIX by Mike Robertson



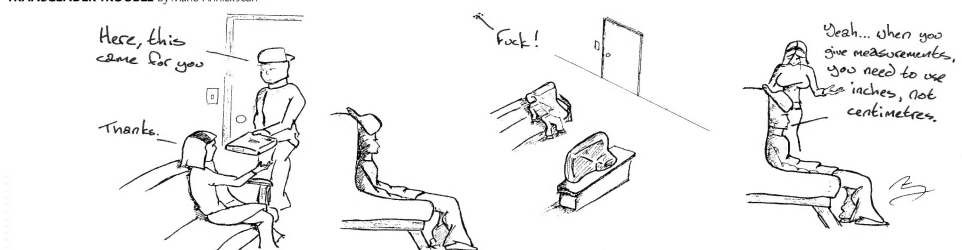
THE PUG FACTOR by Fish Griwkowsky



MICH MICH by Shaun Lyons



TRANSGENDER TROUBLE by Marie-Annick Jean



MOSHPIIT HEROES by Allison and Amber Chipman



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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Breakdancing Competition Expressive

Elements student group presents "Divided by Style" A national breakdancing competition and hip-hop show! Saturday, 12 March, in the main gym of buttermere from 12pm to 7pm.

EMPLOYMENT - FULL TIME

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Alta Care Resources is looking for energetic people to work with youth in crisis. Must have 2-years post-secondary and a reliable vehicle. Contact info: 451-6040 ext. 230226, fax 453-3723, car@alcare.net.

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LOST AND FOUND

Purple ring LOST. Monday, 7 March, 2:45pm. Cameron Library 1st floor women's bathroom. REWARD! Exist39@hotmail.com.

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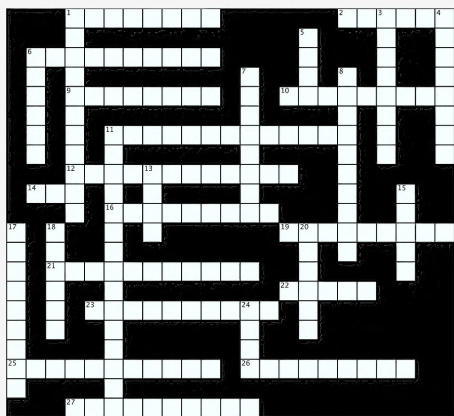
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CROSSWORD

The Sportsword: compiled by Scott C Bourgeois and Jake Troughton. The Crossword runs every Thursday with answers in the following Tuesday issue.



Across

1. In soccer, another term for a defenseman.
2. A defensive specialist in volleyball who may substitute freely, but whose offensive play is restricted.
6. Oilers defenseman who scored on his own goal in the 1986 playoffs.
9. In football, a type of kick where a player drops the ball, then kicks it immediately after it touches the ground. Rarely used today.
10. Championship trophy in Canadian university football.
11. Home field of the Eskimos until 1978.
12. First figure skater to land a quadruple jump in competition.
14. In net sports, a serve that results in a point without being returned.
16. The national men's rugby team of New Zealand.
19. One of the various pieces of equipment used in gymnastics competition.
21. Only NBA player to score 100 points in a game.

22. One of the three weapons used in fencing.
23. Basketball term for when the ball-handler takes too many steps without dribbling.
25. In badminton, the object of the game is to hit this object into the opposing player's court.
26. U of A Athletics director who resigned in October.
27. A traditional form of wrestling in which wrestlers may use only their arms and upper bodies to attack and may hold only those parts of their opponents.

Down

1. Along with rugby, one of two sports the Pandas compete in but the Golden Bears do not.
3. First Major League to hit more than 30 home runs in a season; then, seven years later, the first to hit 60.
4. Games originally held in ancient Greece every four years and resumed in Athens in 1896.
5. American-based organization that Bears and Pandas tennis teams compete in.
6. The formal term for a karate instructor.
7. Hockey term for three or more goals scored by a single player in one game.
8. City that was home to the CFL's Barracudas in 1995.
11. Pandas field hockey head coach.
13. In boxing, the imaginary line from the navel to the top of the hips, below which opposing boxers are not allowed to hit.
15. The field of play in various sports, such as cricket and rugby.
17. In golf, term formerly used to refer to a double eagle, a score of three under par on a single hole.
18. In cricket, this is one of the two wooden structures erected at either end of the pitch, made of three vertical stumps topped by two balls.
20. Former Golden Bear wrestler and football player who now plays for the Eskimos.
24. Term in archery for placing an arrow on the bow string.



LEANNE FONG